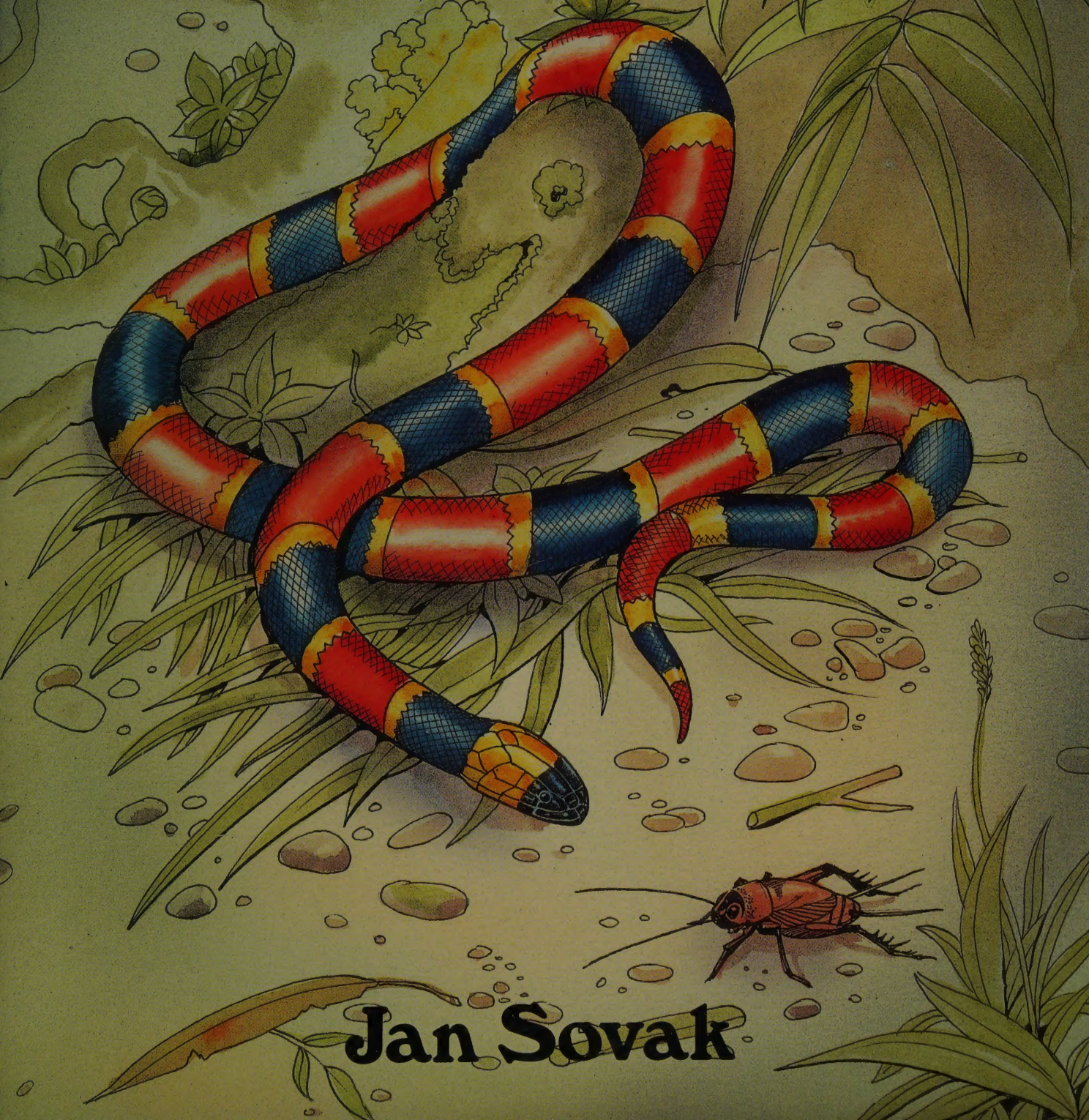


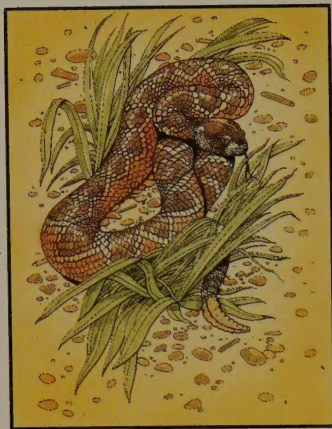
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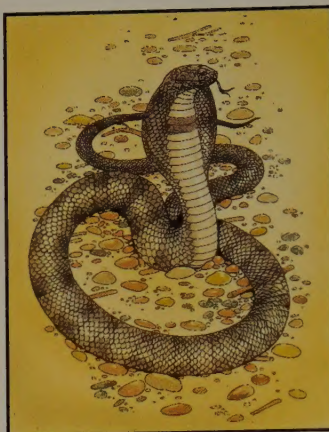
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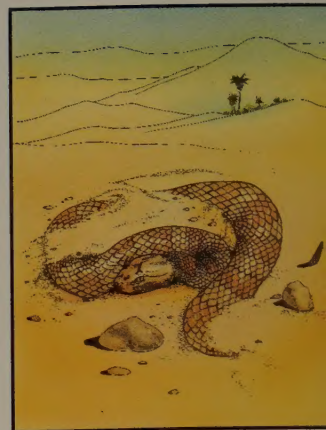
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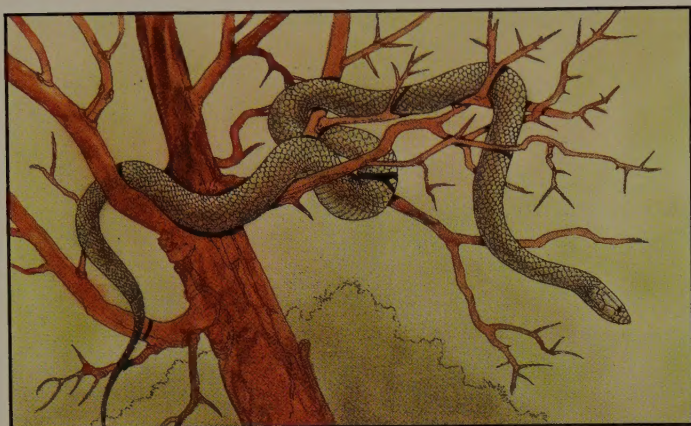
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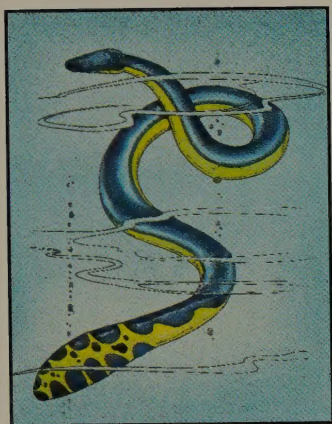
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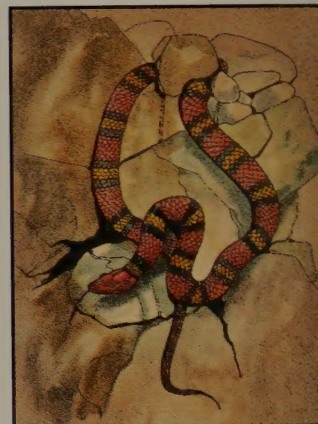
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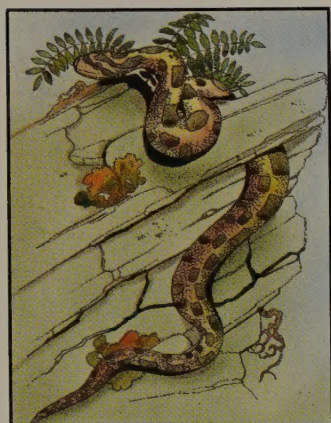
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Snakes of the World

COLORING BOOK

Jan Sotak



DOVER PUBLICATIONS, INC.
NEW YORK

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

We've heard about snakes, vipers, serpents and adders—but what in the world is a *boomslang*?

Has Hollywood leveled with us about those deadly, bone-crushing boa constrictors? or is it all just a tall tale to sell tickets?

Hanging by its tail from a *third*-story window (that's about thirty feet high), one snake in our book can touch the ground with room to spare. Who is this monster?

Heads or tails? If it's a Coral Snake you've just startled, you can't be sure *which* end is up!

Even deprived of the sense of smell, and traveling in pitch blackness, two snakes in this collection can easily zero in for the kill. How do they do it?

How do the Bird Snake, Tree Snake and Vine Snake completely fool their prey by turning "invisible"?

What (and where) is the "pit" in a Pit Viper's world? And does the Eyelash Palm Pit Viper really have eyelashes?

Does a Flying Snake actually fly? (Or is that another "fish" story?)

Jan Sovak's clean-lined, meticulously drawn gallery of the world's snakes invites us into this family of infinite variety—to explore, learn and be wonderfully entertained as we put crayons, pastels or paint to the pages ahead.

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The WESTERN RATTLESNAKE (*Crotalus atrox*)—famous in the folklore of the American Southwest—is forever associated with its raised striking coil (the “rattle”) and

fatal bite. It lives surprisingly close to humans when there is a nearby place to hibernate, deep underground.



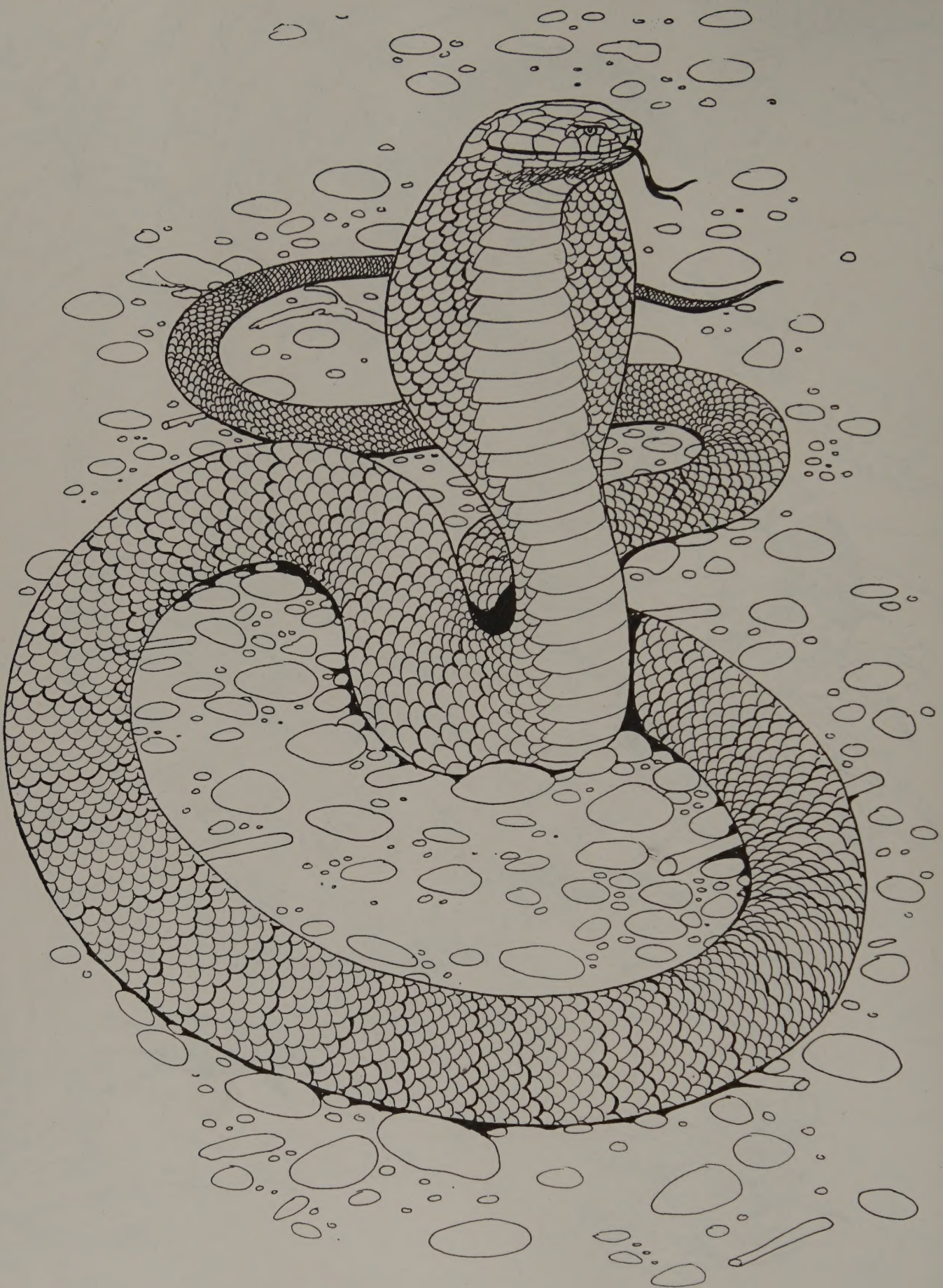
The autumnal coloration of the COPPERHEAD (*Agkistrodon contortrix*) allows it to coil unseen among dead leaves, ready to strike such passing prey as mice, birds or frogs.

Despite stories to the contrary, its bite is seldom fatal to humans. In one subspecies or another, the Copperhead is native to much of the United States.



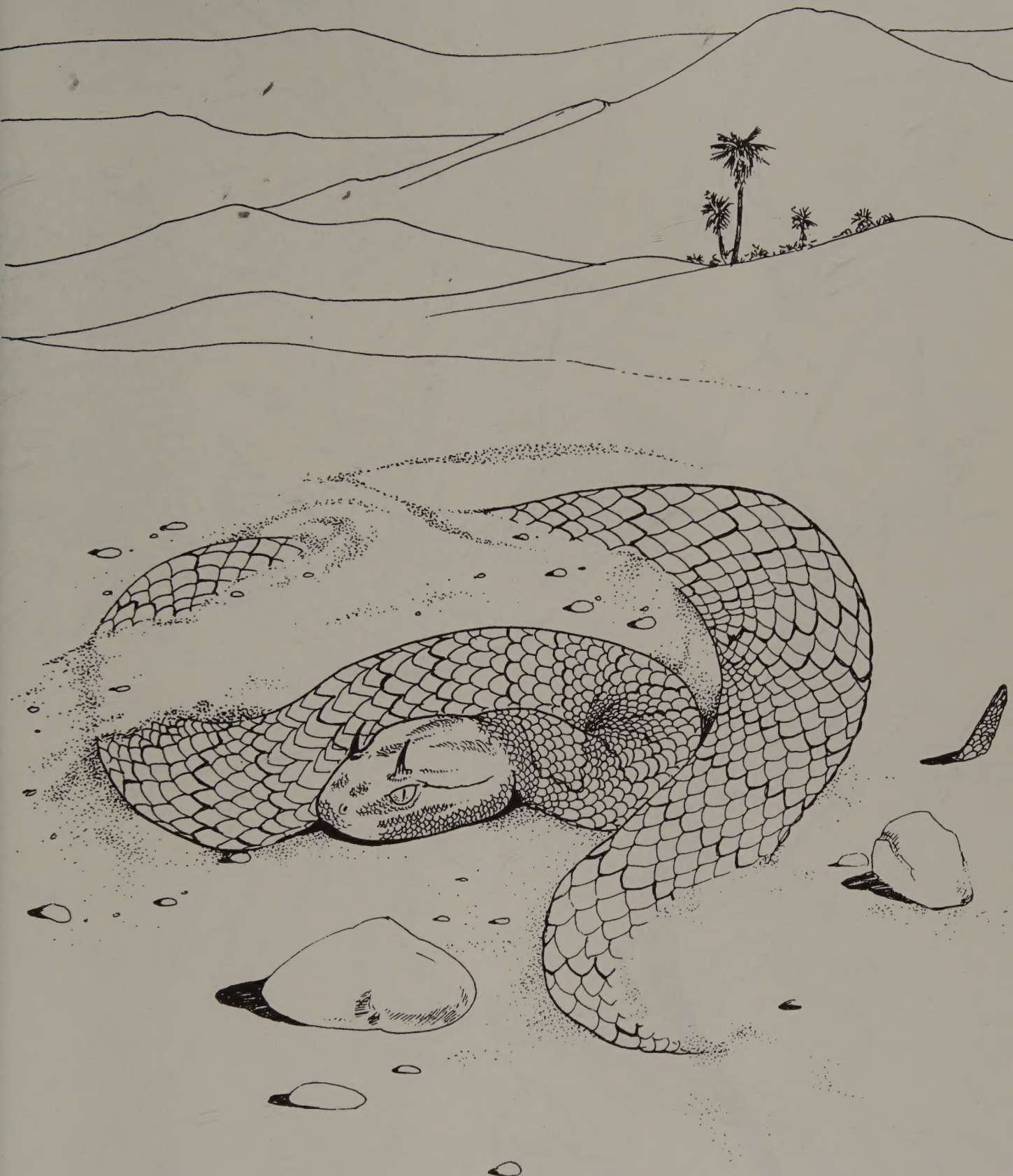
Found chiefly in Florida and close to the Gulf of Mexico, the brightly colored EASTERN CORAL SNAKE (*Micrurus fulvius*) favors rainy or humid, overcast days to move out

from hiding beneath fallen logs. Although venomous it is not aggressive, hiding its head and presenting its tail if molested.



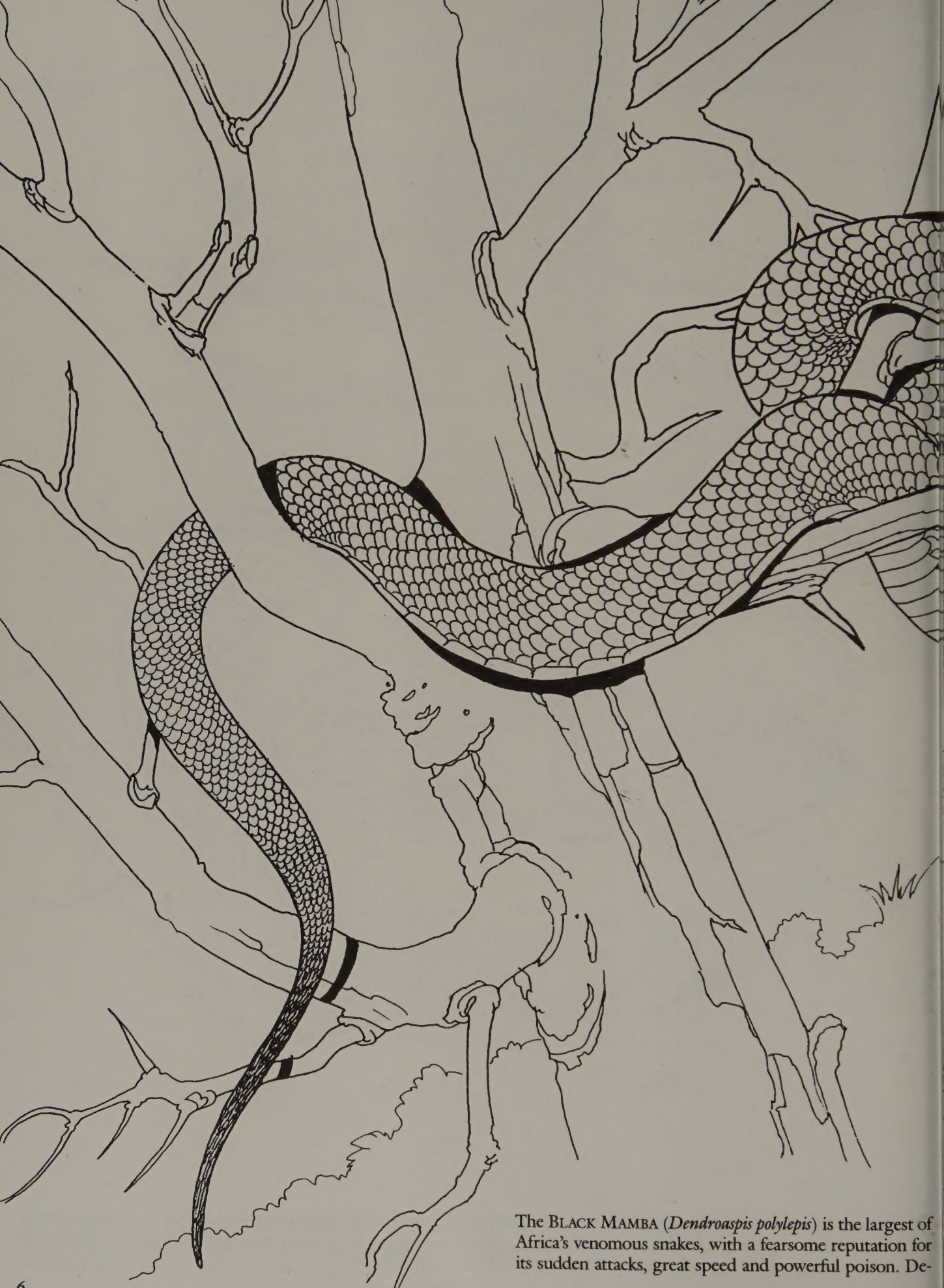
The KING COBRA (*Ophiophagus hannah*) is the largest venomous snake in the world, some reaching the amazing length of eighteen feet, with a rearing height of over four

feet. Reputed to be extremely aggressive, this native of Asia and Indonesia feeds almost entirely on other snakes.

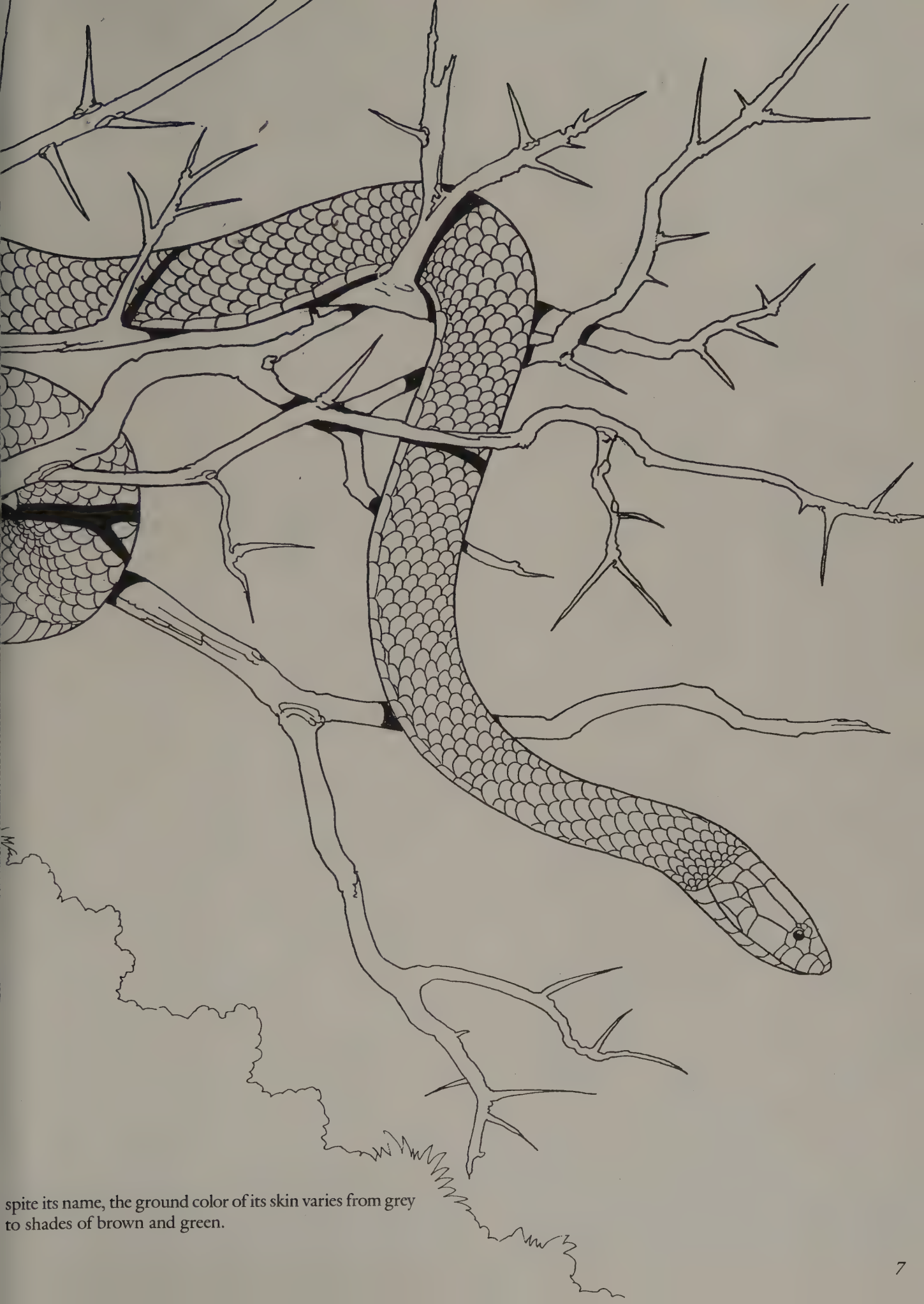


Native to North Africa and the Middle East, the SAHARA SAND VIPER (*Cerastes cerastes*) escapes predators—and ambushes its prey—by swiftly sinking into the sand with a

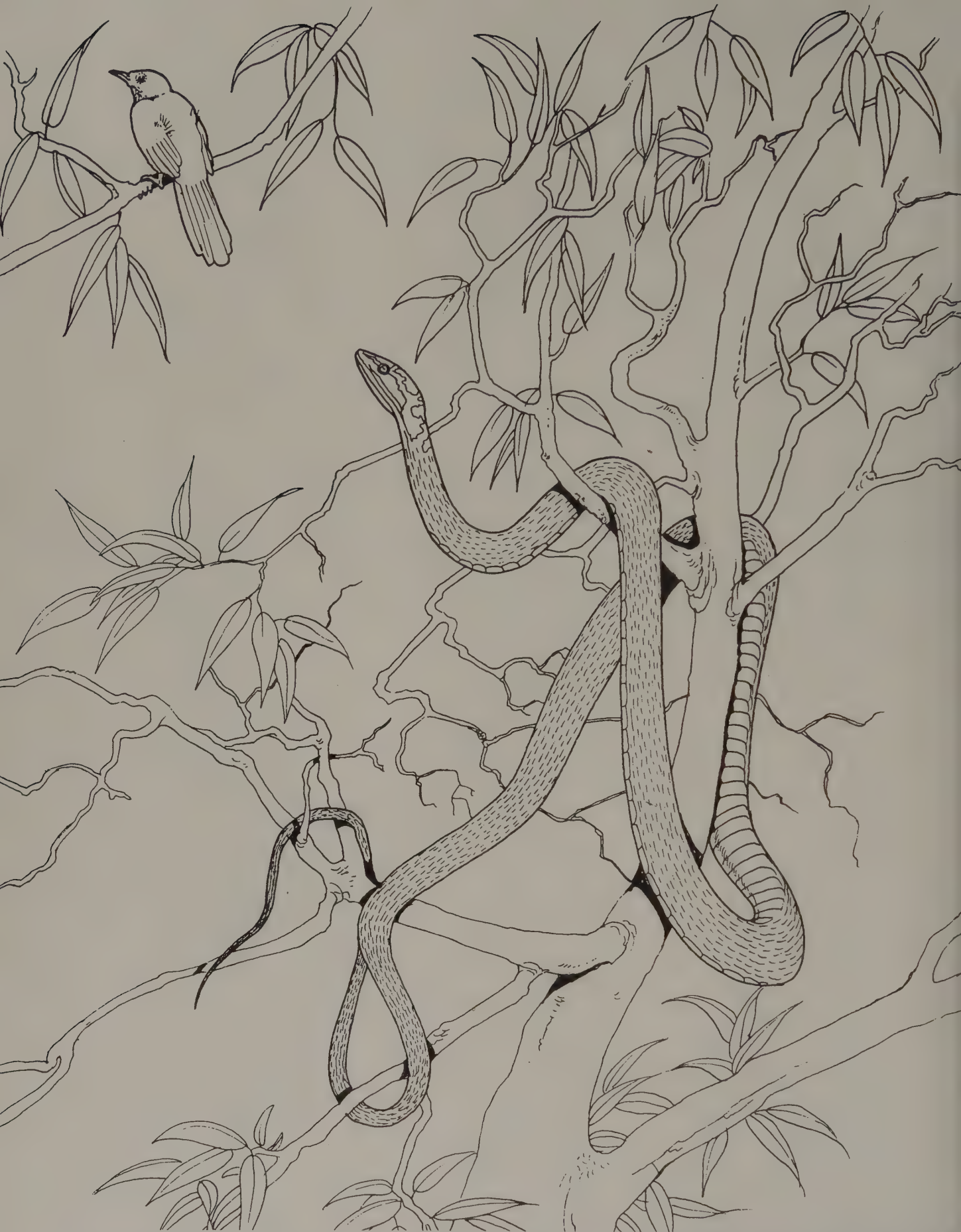
rocking motion. The spine or “horn” over each eye keeps the eye free of cover even when the snake is buried and invisible.



The BLACK MAMBA (*Dendroaspis polylepis*) is the largest of Africa's venomous snakes, with a fearsome reputation for its sudden attacks, great speed and powerful poison. De-



spite its name, the ground color of its skin varies from grey to shades of brown and green.



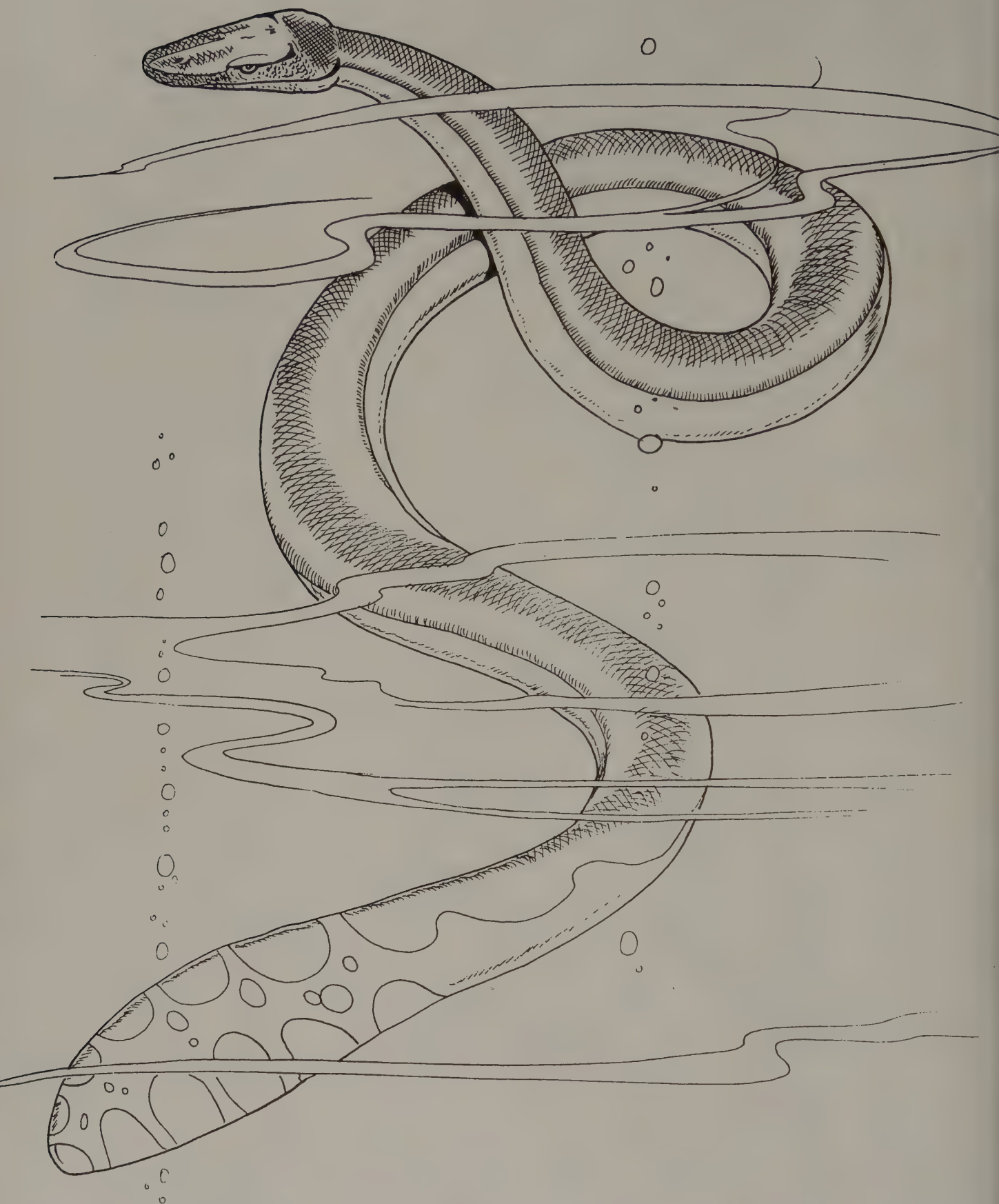
An animal that uses its coloration to remain almost invisible in its favorite tree, Africa's poisonous BIRD SNAKE (*Thelotornis kirtlandii*) carefully stalks its prey of birds,

bats, lizards and frogs. Its common name of "Twig Snake" refers to its habit of holding a rigid posture extended from a branch, swaying in the breeze.



The GABOON VIPER (*Bitis gabonica*) is Africa's largest viper, generally lethargic but capable of great speed and agility when aroused by hunger or confrontation. Its col-

orful patterns remind some observers of a pastel-colored oriental carpet.



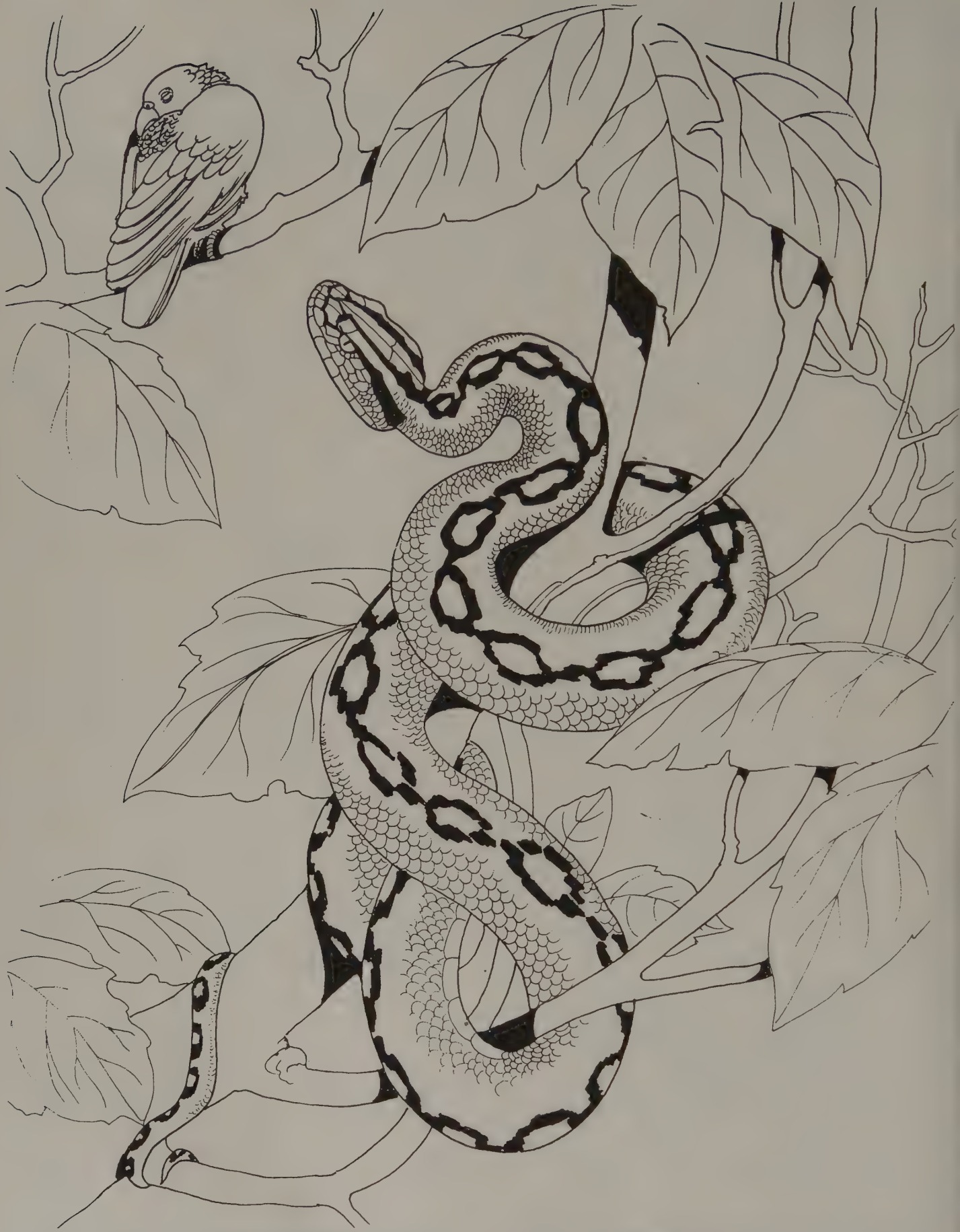
The vast range of the PELAGIC SEA SNAKE (*Pelamis platurus*) extends from the coastal waters of Mexico, Central and South America westward to Africa. Spending

much of its time floating on the surface, drifting with the currents, this snake preys upon all sorts of surface-dwelling fish.



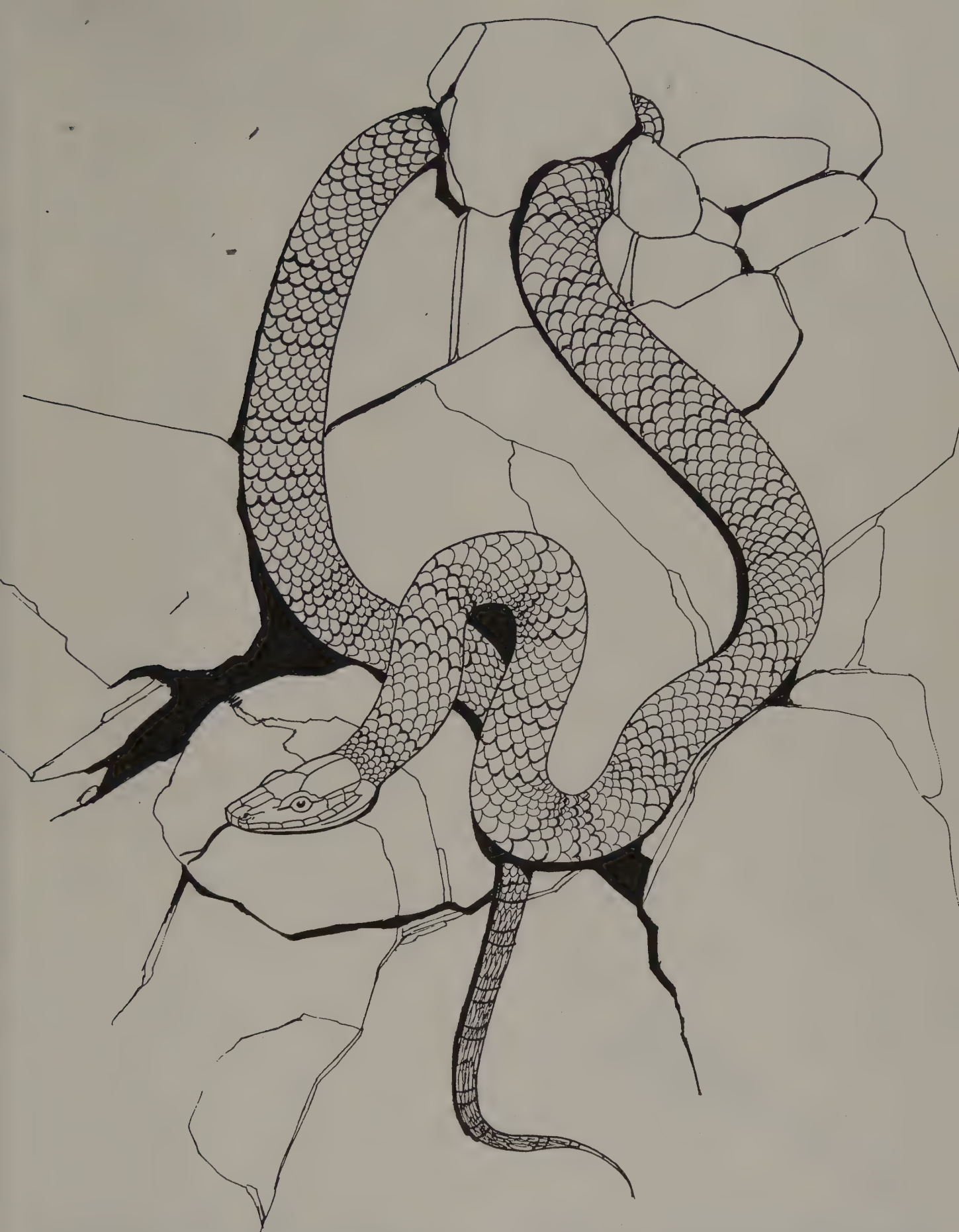
Irritable and aggressive, the CANTIL (*Agkistrodon bilineatus*) inhabits the swamps, marshes and cane fields near water in southern Mexico and Central America. Like

the Cottonmouth—its northern relative—it hunts a variety of animals including rodents, birds, fish and other reptiles.



South America's YELLOW-BLOTCHED PALM PIT VIPER (*Bothriechis aurifer*) earns part of its name from the "pits" on its head—one on each side between eye and nostril. These cavities are ultrasensitive heat receptors than can

detect the tiniest difference in temperature between a nearby prey and its surroundings. Easy targeting for this feared predator!



Its pretty colors, inoffensive disposition and ease of care account for the popularity of the MILK SNAKE (*Lampropeltis triangulum*) as a pet. Generally native to the

United States, this reptile got its name from the false belief that it frequents barns in order to milk cows! It does seek out barns, but only in search of rodents.



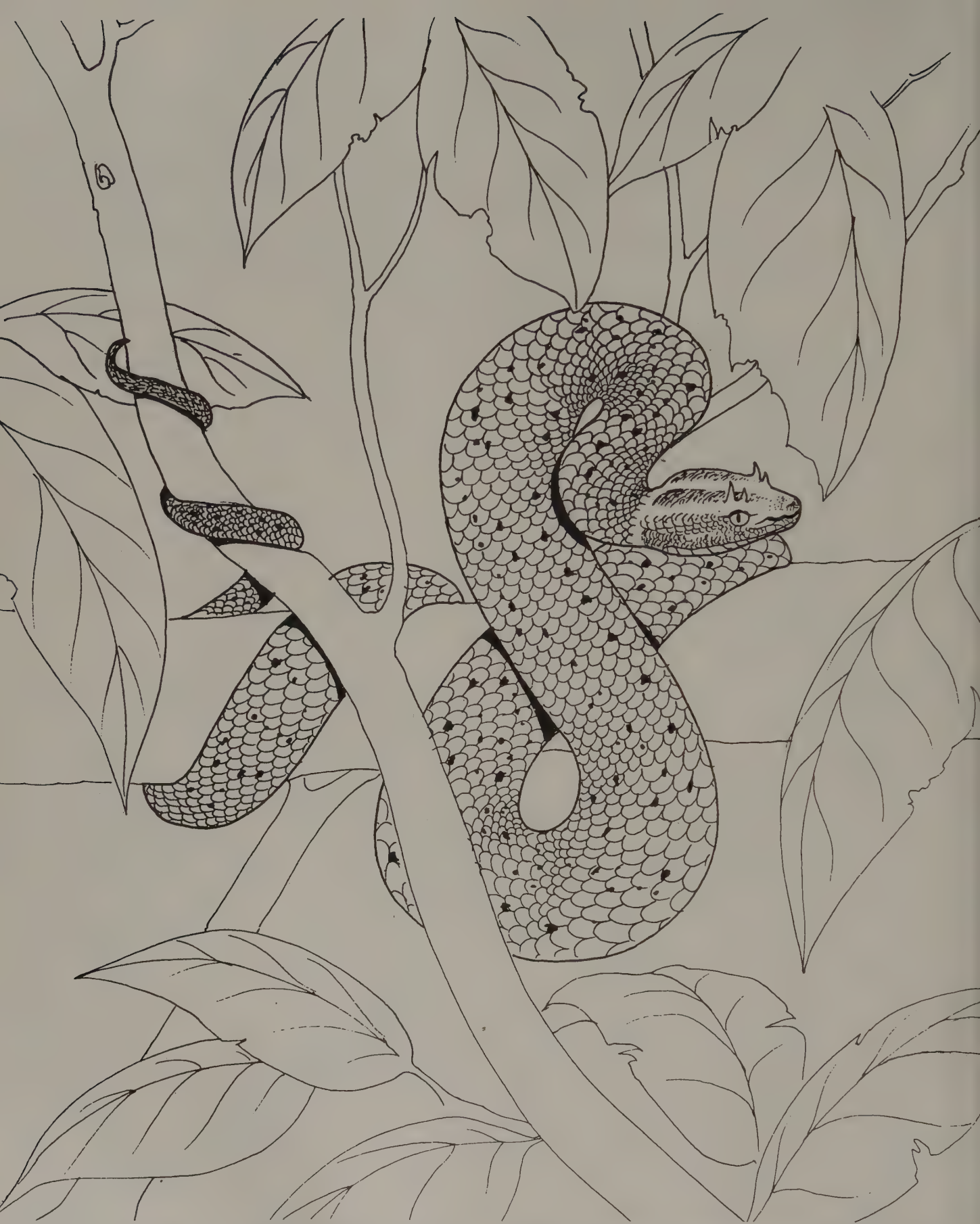
The WESTERN HOGNOSE SNAKE (*Heterodon nasicus*) is a short, rather stocky, nonpoisonous inhabitant of the southwestern United States. The female can deposit up to

two dozen eggs in the sandy, crumbly soil favored by the species.



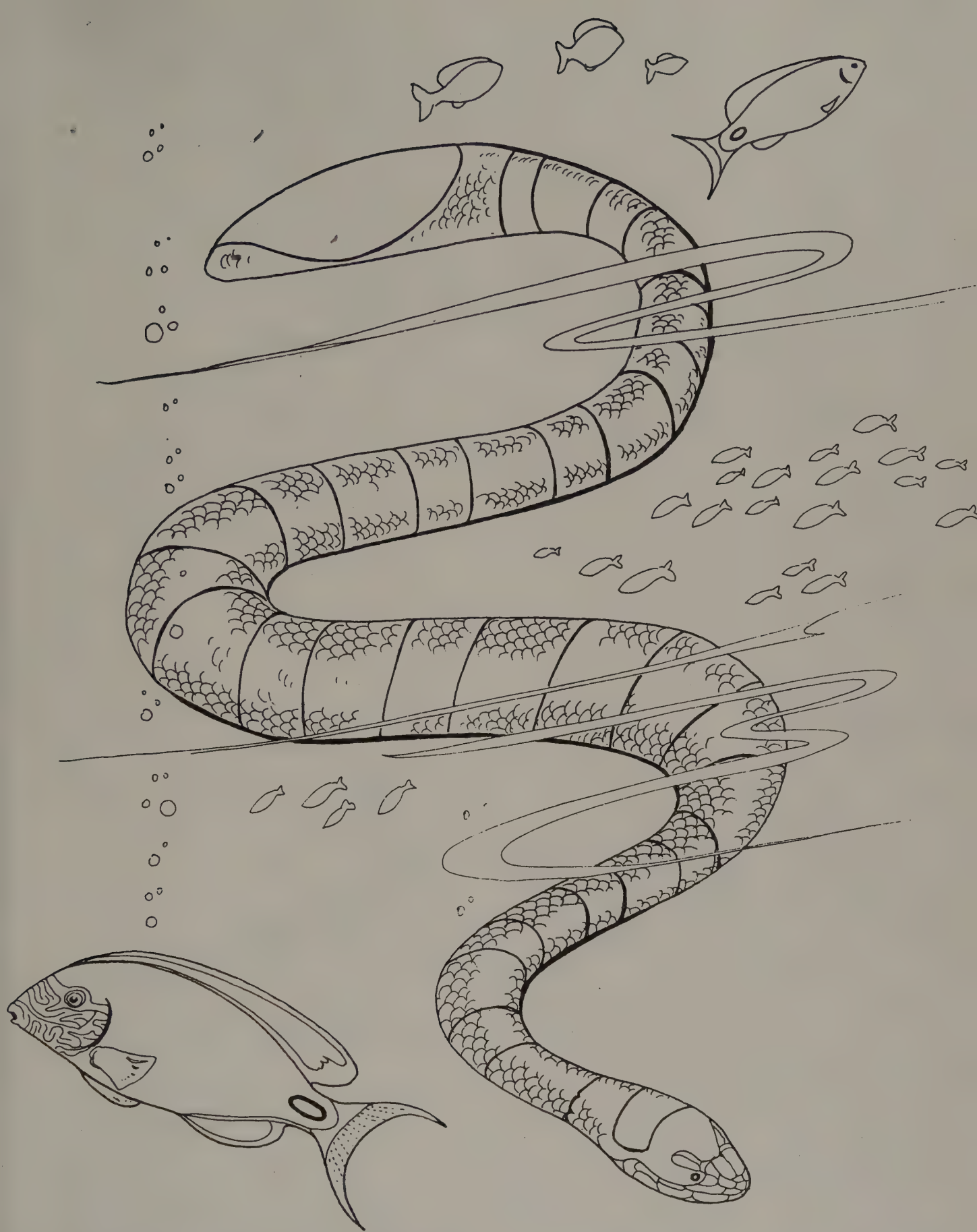
Many herpetologists were first introduced to snakes by viewing a harmless Garter Snake in a classroom terrarium. Like all members of its species, the RED-SIDED GARTER

SNAKE (*Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia*) bears living young—sometimes as many as eighty-five in a single litter! A favorite pet throughout the United States and Mexico.



This nocturnal native of Central and South America is easily identified by the spiny scales above each eye, giving the appearance of eyelashes. With its prey (a small mammal, bird or frog) firmly gripped, the EYELASH PALM PIT

VIPER (*Bothriechis schlegelii*) waits for its poison to work before swallowing the victim—all this time with the snake suspended by its tail in midair.



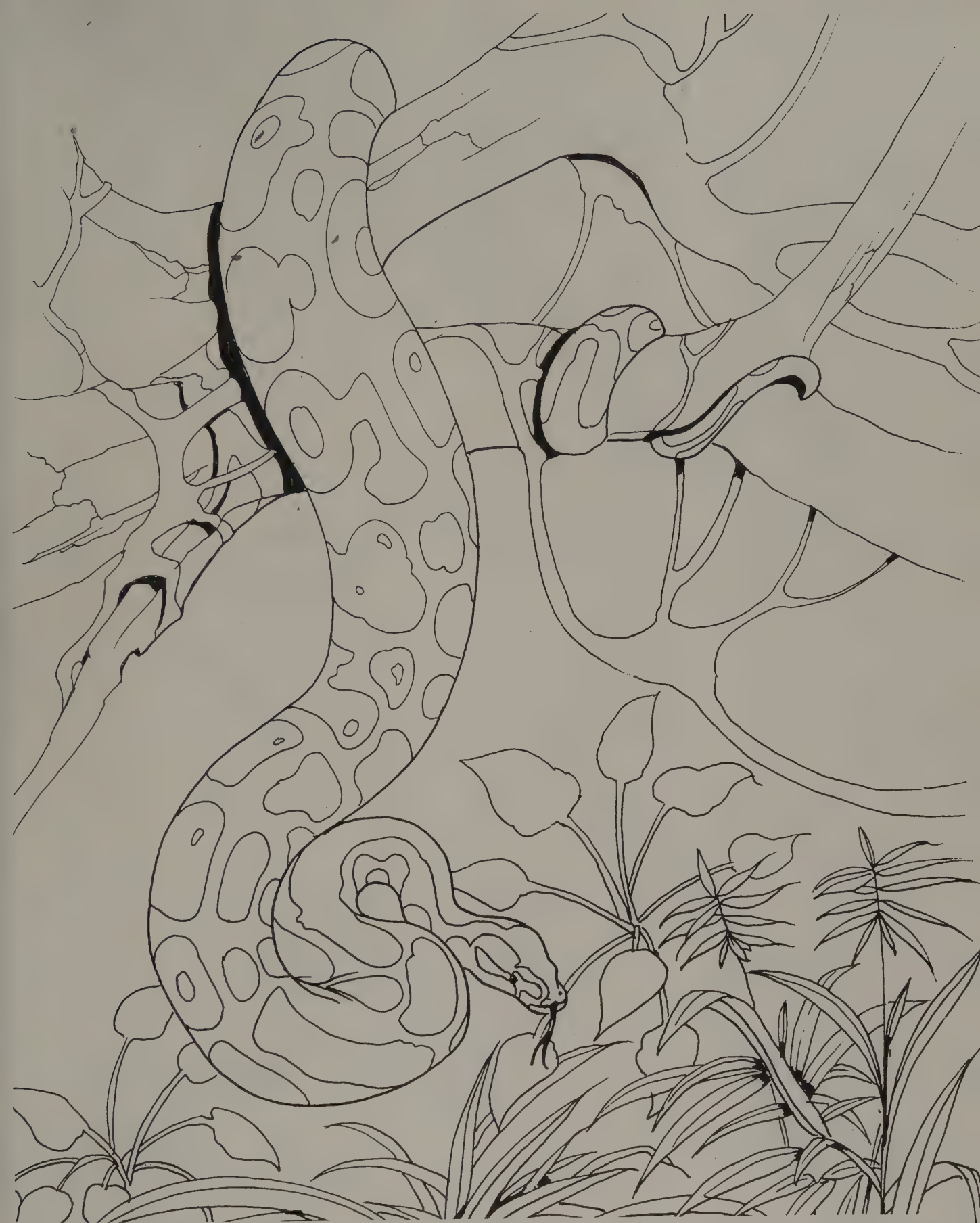
Surprisingly, the BANDED SEA SNAKE (*Laticauda colubrina*) ventures into water solely to feed. Otherwise—to bask or seek shelter or lay its eggs—it searches out rock crevices

and caves far removed from water. A native of the reefs, lagoons and swamps of the South Pacific, southeastern Asia and the coast of Japan.



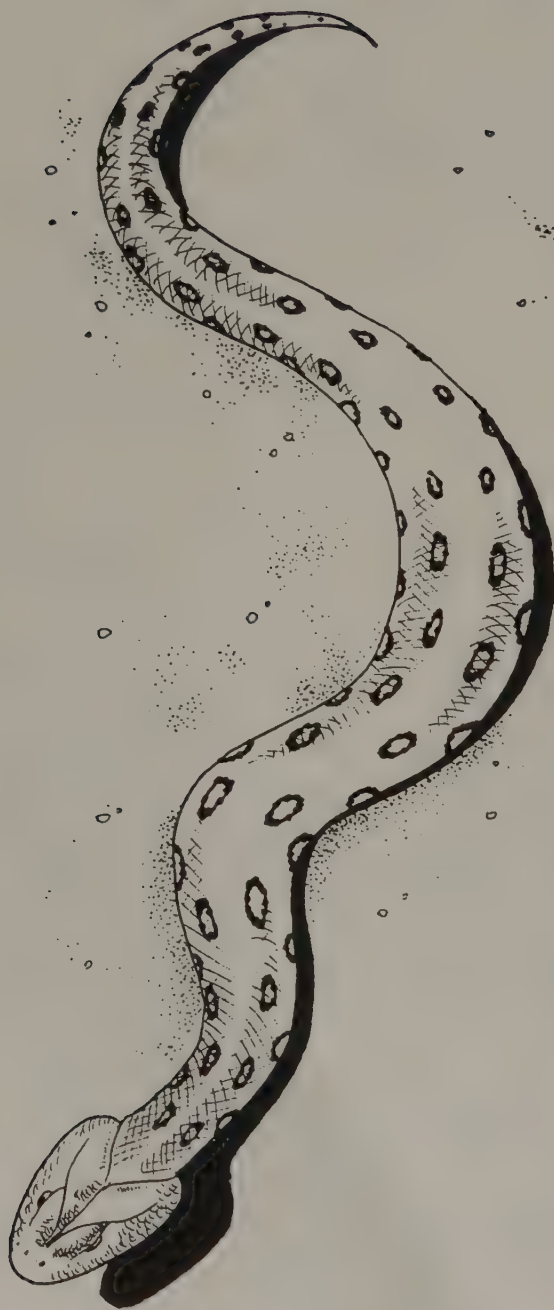
The RHINOCEROS VIPER (*Bitis nasicornis*) is partly aquatic, lethargically basking in shrubs or trees, or waiting for prey in Africa's rain forests, swamps and streams. Its striking

name comes from a double set of enlarged scales on its nose, which resemble the horns of the rhino.



Contrary to its picturesque name, the ROYAL PYTHON (*Python regius*) is the smallest of the African pythons, known for its passive defense posture of coiling itself into a tight ball. In this position the “Ball Python” (its popular

name) can actually be tossed or rolled about! It is unusually popular with zoological parks and among private collectors.



The popular name of the DESERT SIDEWINDING VIPER (*Vipera peringuey*) describes the peculiar motion that propels this rattlesnake over the soft, shifting sands of its

habitat in Mexico and Central America. The body moves forward in rolling loops, somewhat like the tracks of a "caterpillar" tractor.



Variety—of color, of pattern, of habitat—characterizes this resident of the countryside from the Pecos River of Texas south to Durango, Mexico. The GRAY-BANDED KINGSNAKE (*Lampropeltis mexicana alterna*) in fact defies

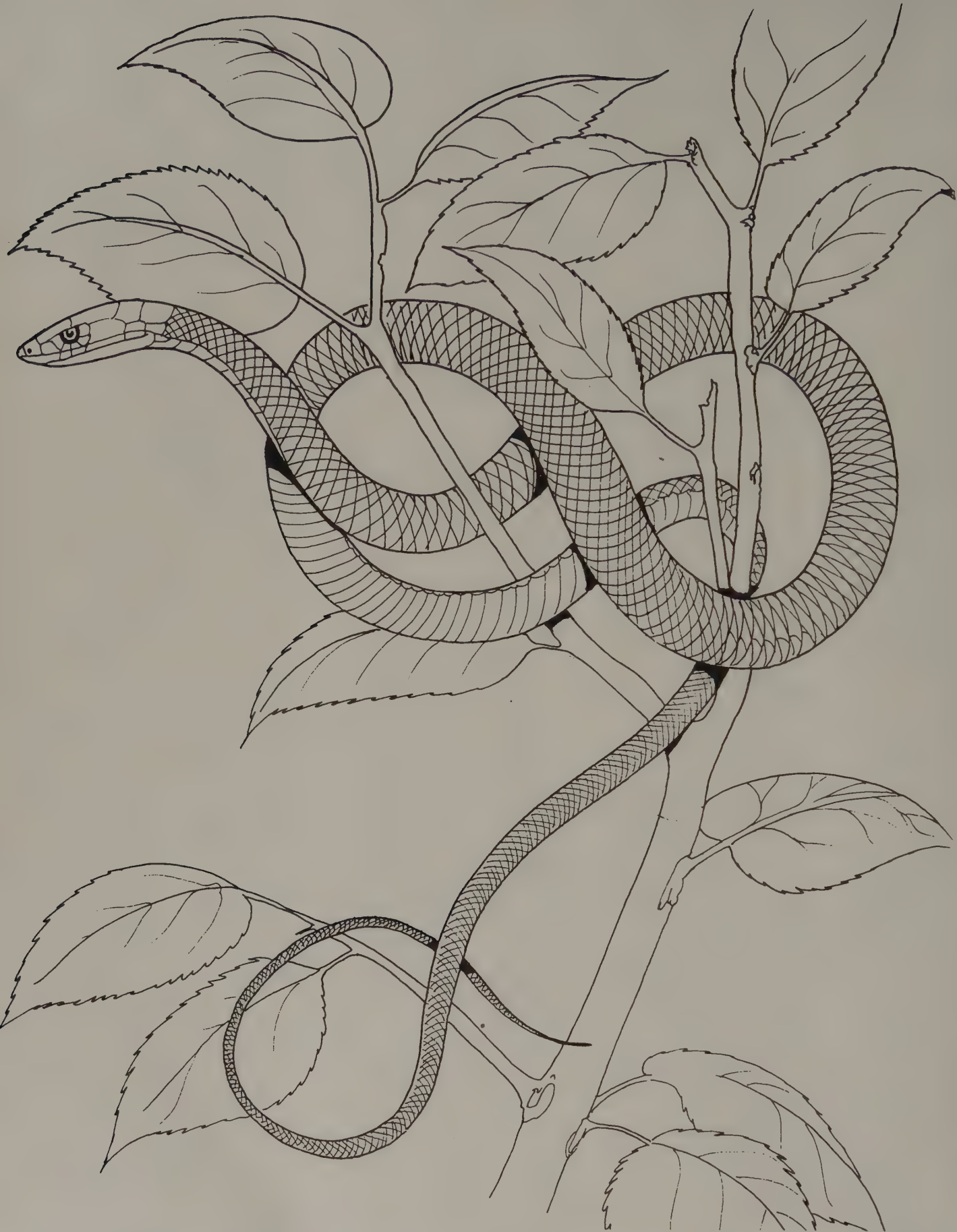
verbal description because of the total diversity of its color and pattern. Equally diverse are its home sites: from dry brushland to humid woodlands.



When confronted, the COTTONMOUTH (*Agkistrodon piscivorus*) vibrates its tail, throws its head back and gapes widely, exposing the startling white interior of its mouth

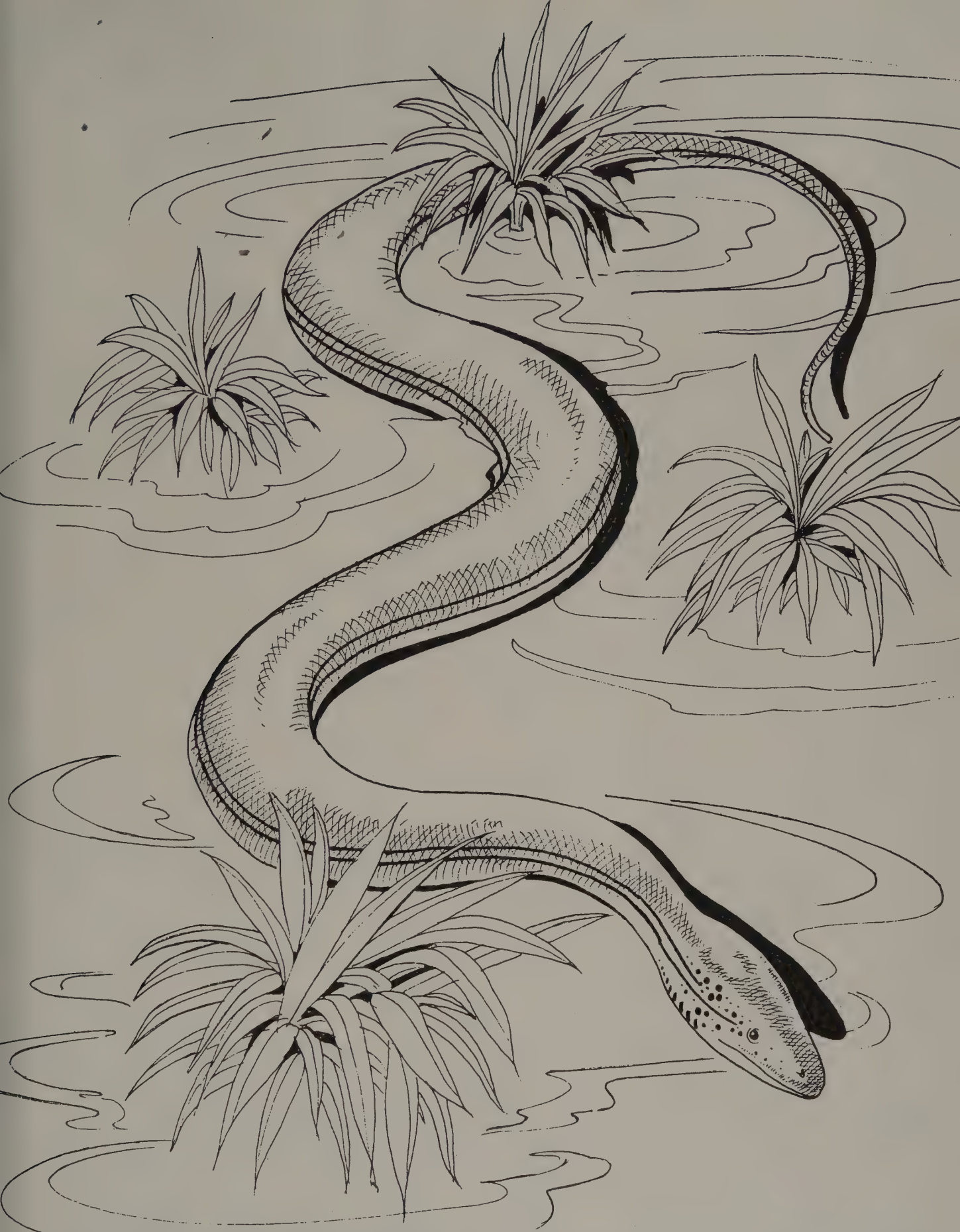


and throat. This display is the reason for its popular names, among people of the snake's habitat in southeastern United States, of "Cottonmouth," "Snap Jaw" and "Gaper."



The ROUGH GREEN SNAKE (*Ophiodrys aestivus*) is a gentle creature, fond of climbing trees in search of spiders and such insects as grasshoppers along with an occasional small

frog. It is difficult to detect in the foliage of its home in the eastern and southeastern United States.



The SUNBEAM SNAKE (*Xenopeltis unicolor*) takes its name from the striking iridescence of its smooth, blue scales. At

home in the rice fields of Southeast Asia, it lives both above and below ground, capable of quick burrowing in soft soil.



Carrying the Afrikaans name for “Tree Snake,” the BOOMSLANG (*Dispholidus typus*) has been thought to “charm” its prey of small mammals before its venomous strike. This

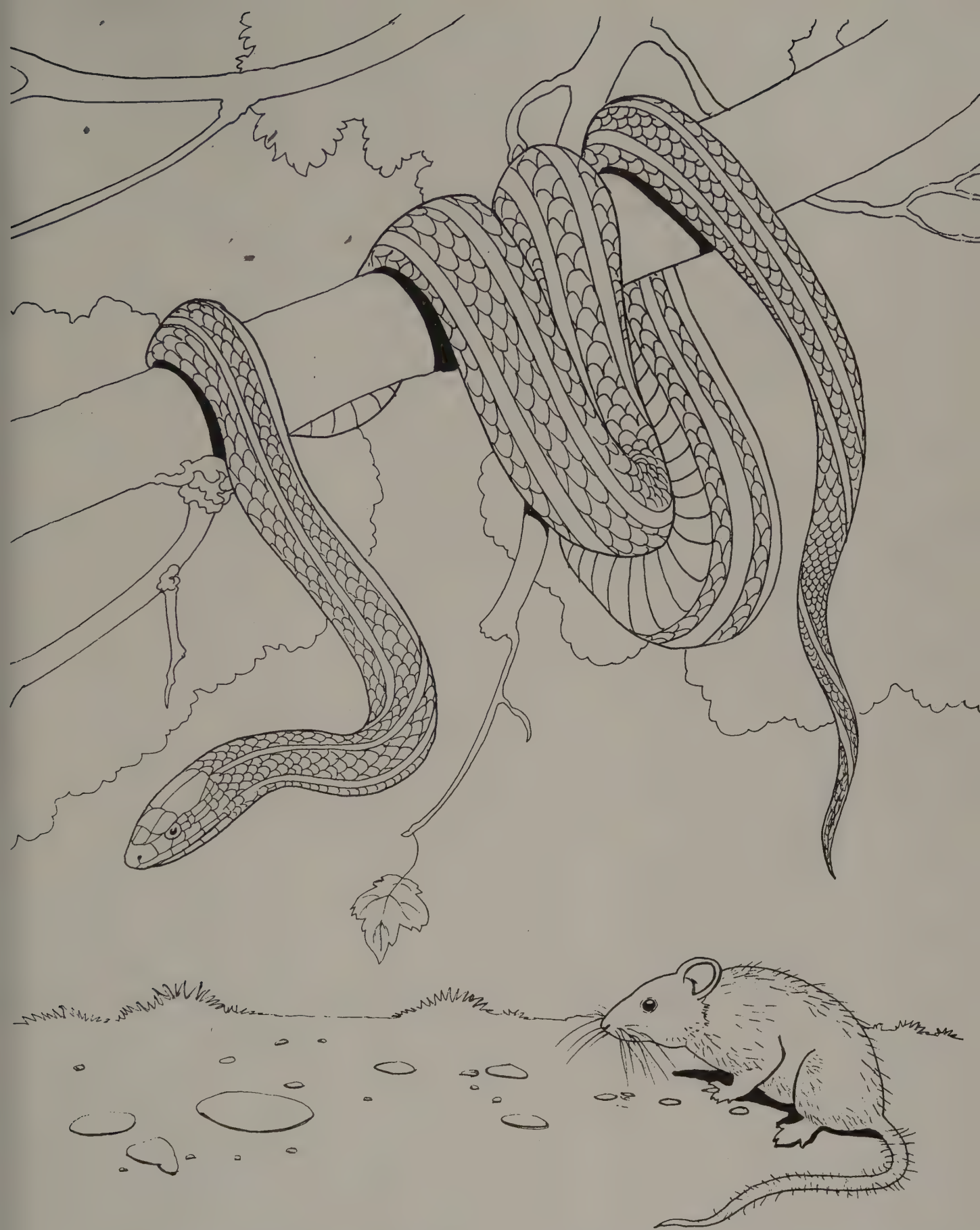


belief came from its habit of pausing in its swift, graceful motion—body held rigid and unsupported—waiting for its target to come within attacking range.



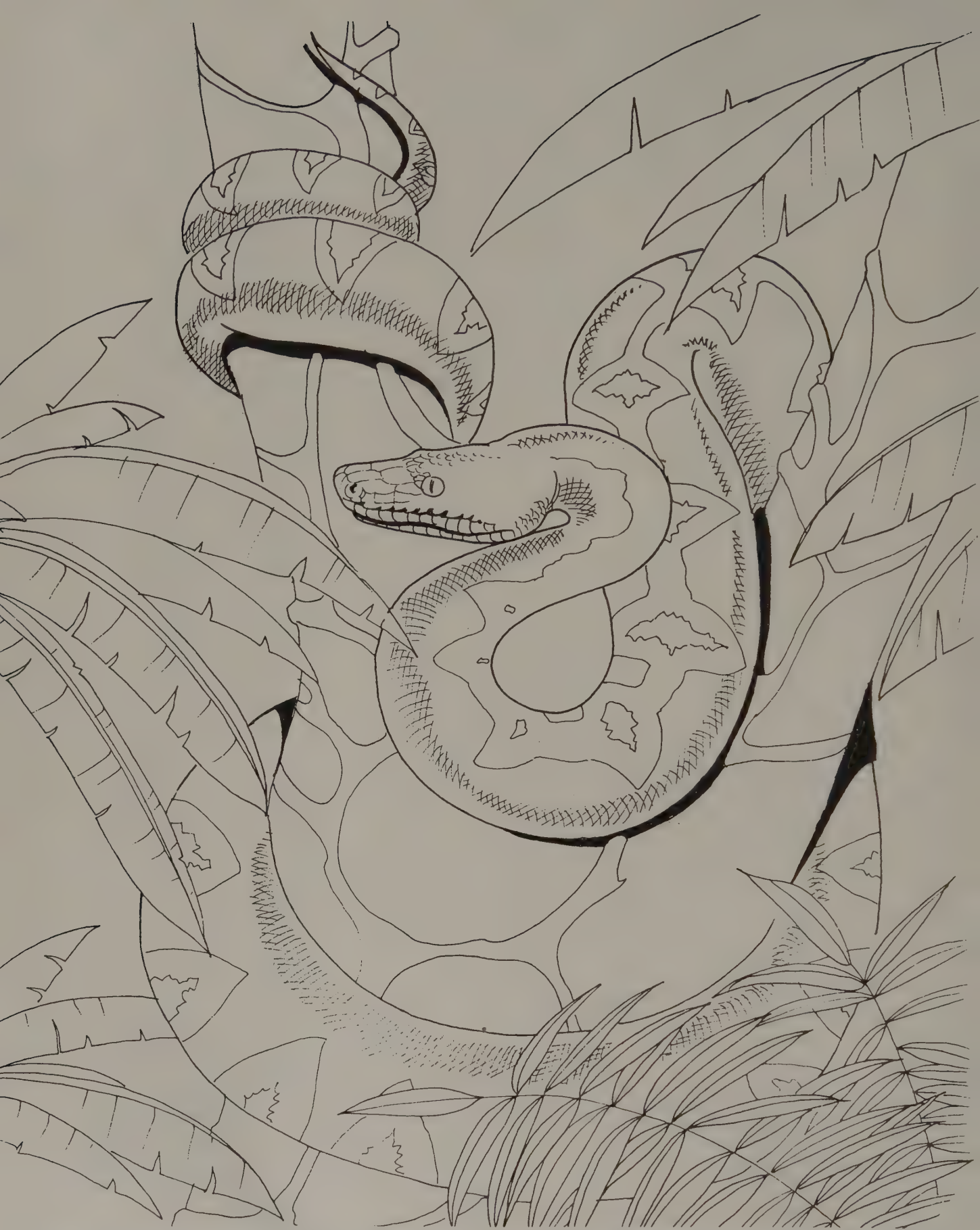
Popular “jungle” movies invariably misrepresent the BOA CONSTRUCTOR (*Boa constrictor subsp.*) as a monstrous serpent that drops out of trees (it doesn’t even live in them), devours people and horses (it’s not large enough to do

either) and crushes its prey to death (its constricting coils cause death by preventing its prey’s heart and lungs from functioning). The boa is, in fact, a rather docile animal, widespread throughout the tropical areas of the Americas.



The YELLOW RATSNAKE (*Elaphe obsoleta quadrivittata*) is a great aid to the agriculture of the southeastern United States, controlling populations of disease-carrying ro-

dents. But an equally favorite meal consists of the eggs and young of birds and chickens—hence, its local nickname of “Chicken Snake.”



Functioning just like the “pits” of the Pit Vipers, the thermoreceptors of the EMERALD TREE BOA (*Corallus canina*)—dramatically visible around its mouth—detect minute temperature differences between its prey and its

surroundings. This heat signal helps the snake locate its prey and aim its strike. Native to the Amazon basin, South America.



The CORN SNAKE (*Elaphe guttata*) spends much of its time hidden in or prowling around decayed logs, rotting railroad ties, sandy pine woods—and even (the story goes) in the city sewer systems of the eastern and southeastern

United States. Its coloration varies considerably from drabness to spectacular display—some populations are among the most colorful snakes known.



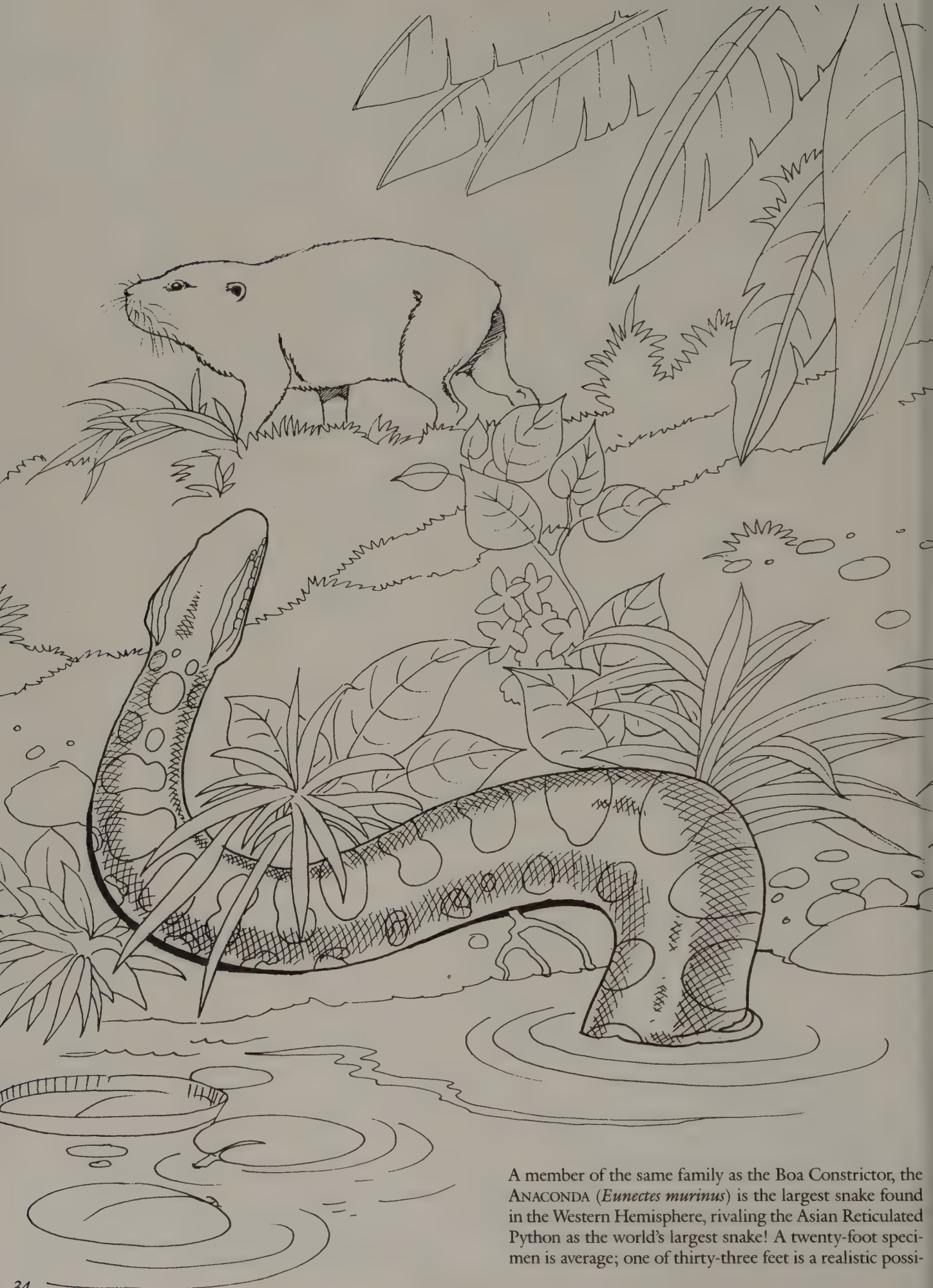
The survival of the PUFF ADDER (*Bitis arietans*) shows how nature offsets the potential loss of a species. A target of birds of prey, this snake compensates by bearing large litters of living young—sometimes over eighty at one

time! Avoiding the extremes of desert and rain forest, the Adder is found in all other habitats of Africa and the Middle East.

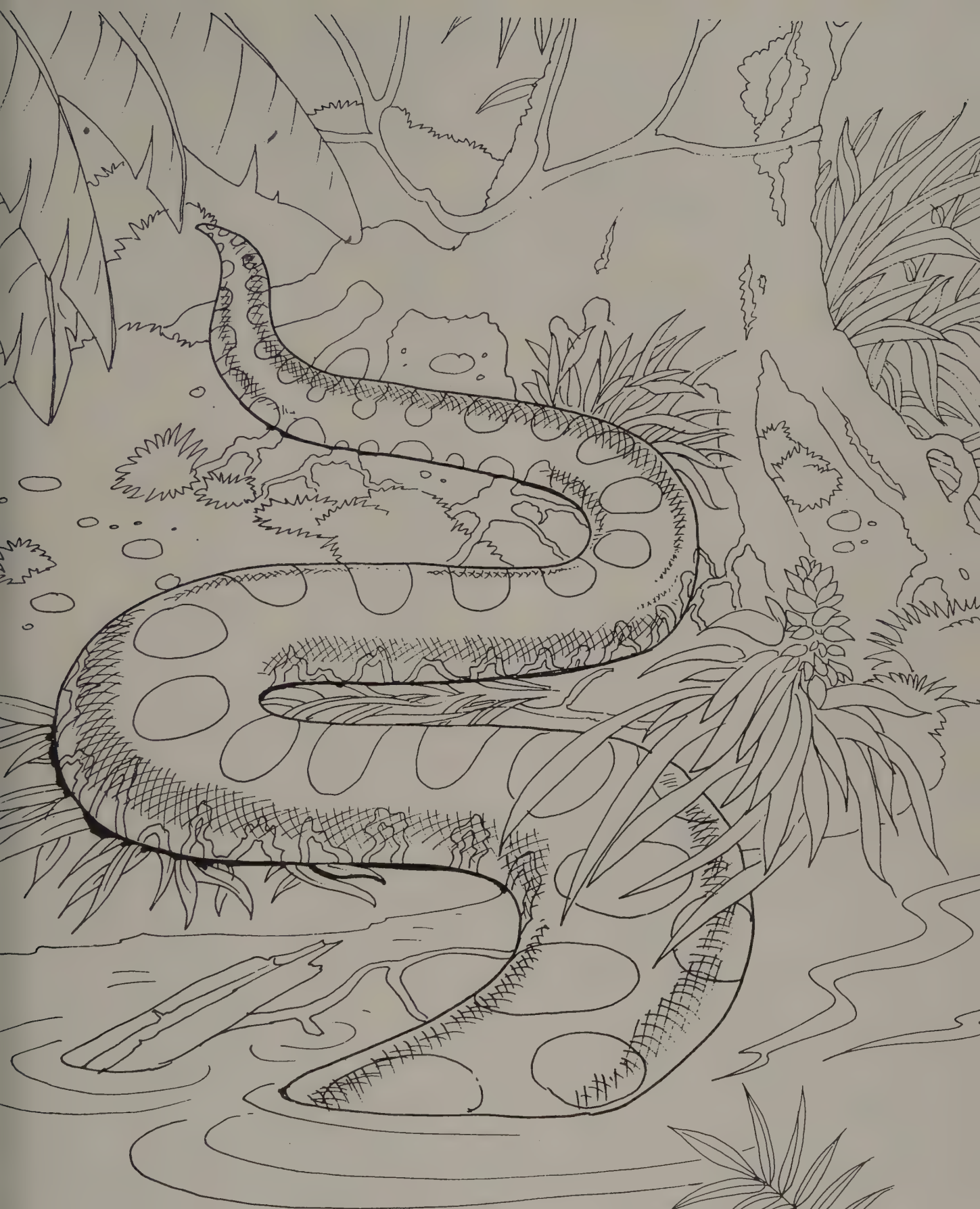


Like Africa's "Tree Snake" (Boomslang) and Bird Snake, the VINE SNAKE (*Oxybelis fulgidus*) of Central and South America adopts a mid-branch "freeze" until suitable prey

appears within striking range. In this position, and because of its camouflaging coloration, the Vine Snake is virtually invisible amidst its favorite foliage.

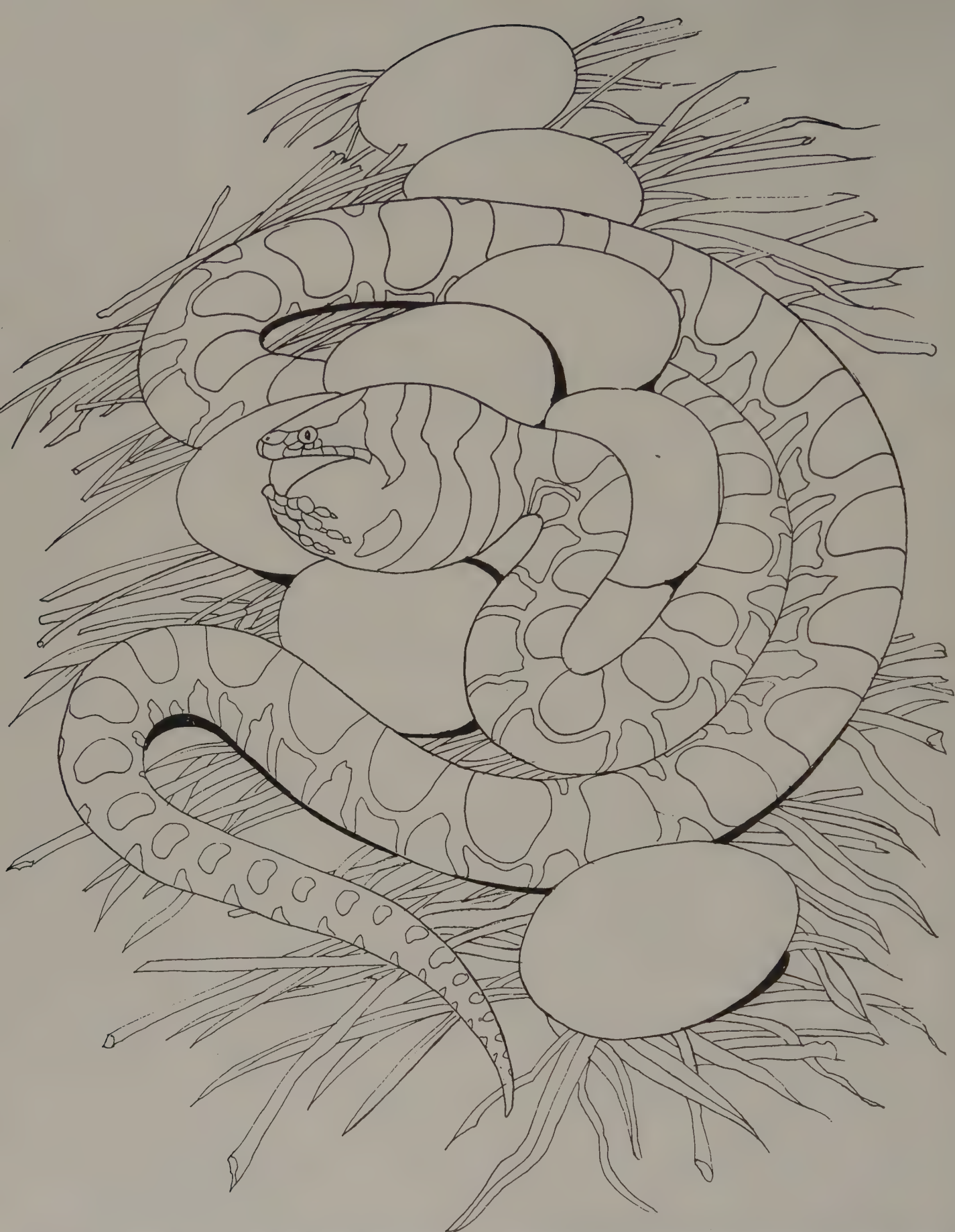


A member of the same family as the Boa Constrictor, the ANACONDA (*Eunectes murinus*) is the largest snake found in the Western Hemisphere, rivaling the Asian Reticulated Python as the world's largest snake! A twenty-foot specimen is average; one of thirty-three feet is a realistic possi-



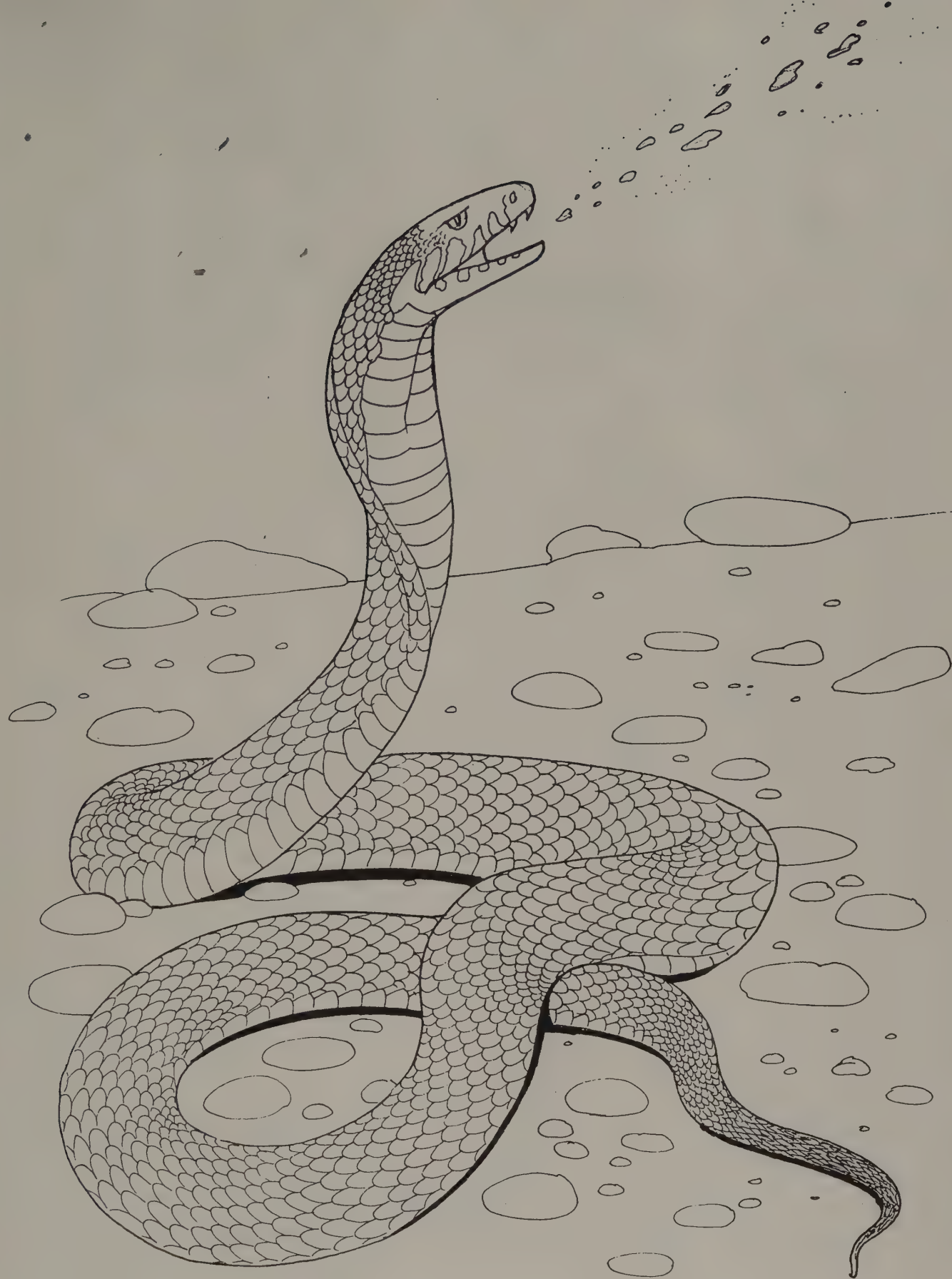
bility. An excellent swimmer, the Anaconda is found in South America's shallow streams and rivers, fully capable of subduing and eating creatures as large as the tapir, cayman and crocodile.





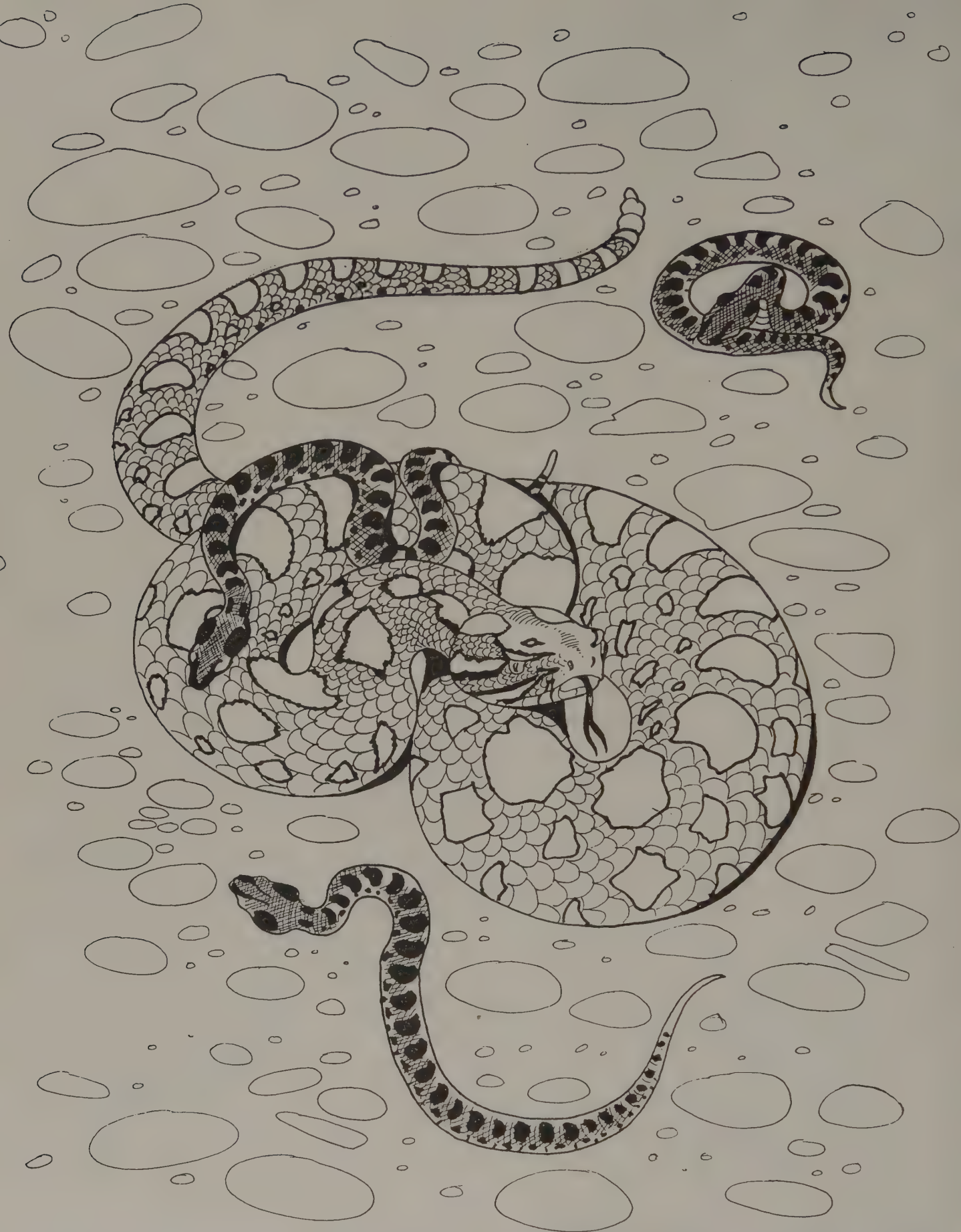
Natural adaptation is the secret of Africa's EGG-EATING SNAKE (*Dasypeltis scabra*) as it swallows an entire hard-shelled bird's egg far wider than this slim snake itself. Practically toothless, the snake takes advantage of a

bellows-like fold of skin between its jaws and the unusually elastic skin at its throat to ingest a large egg with ease—the single ingredient of its unique diet!



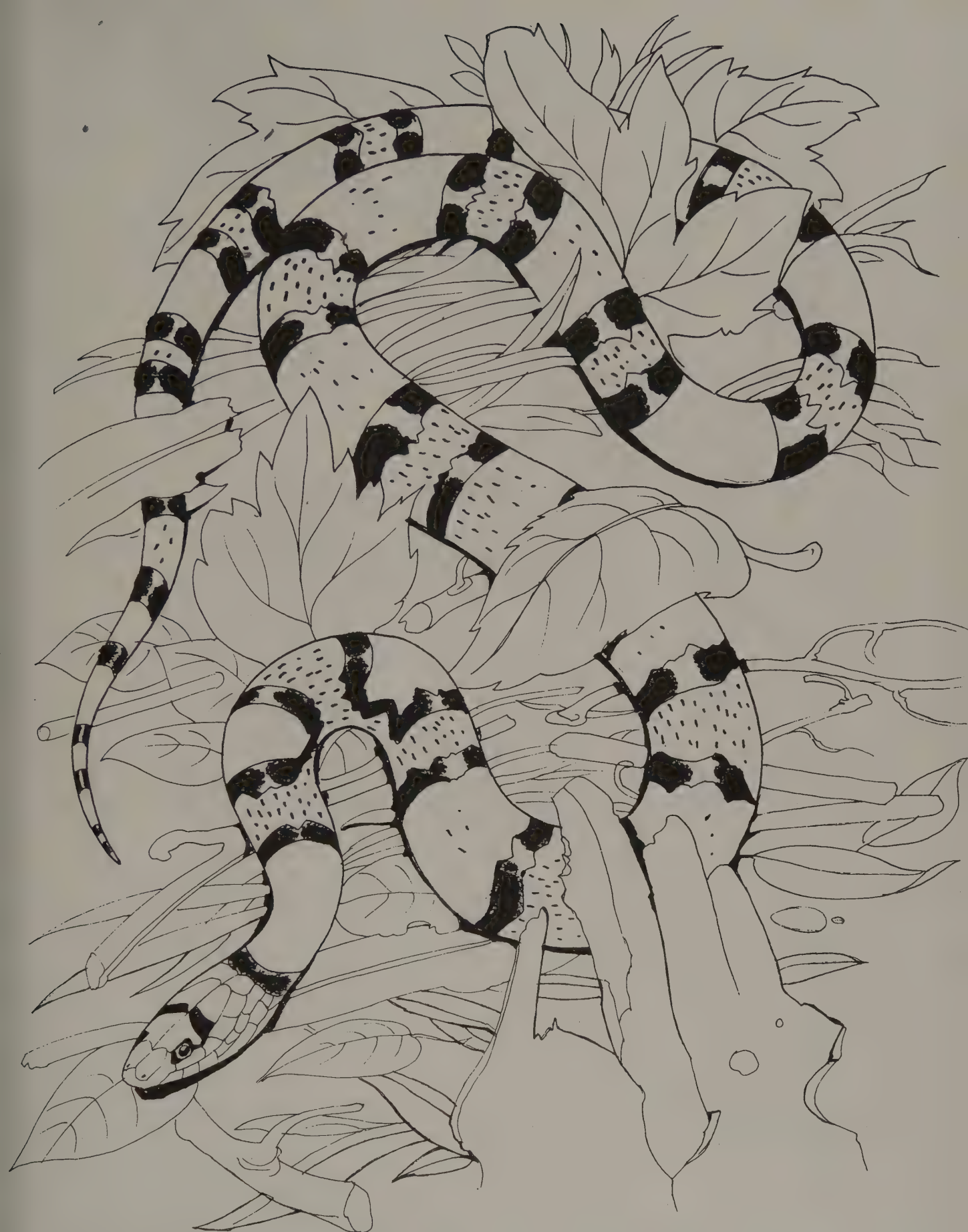
In the savannahs of Kenya and nearby lands, the SPITTING COBRA (*Naja nigricollis*), facing an intruder, rears up, spreads a slight “hood”—that familiar aspect of all “snake charmer” images—and aims its head at the face of its

enemy. Then the mouth opens and a spray of venom is exhaled forward, possibly to blind its target. This swift action (done in seconds) is triggered by the slightest provocation of this quick-tempered, edgy predator.



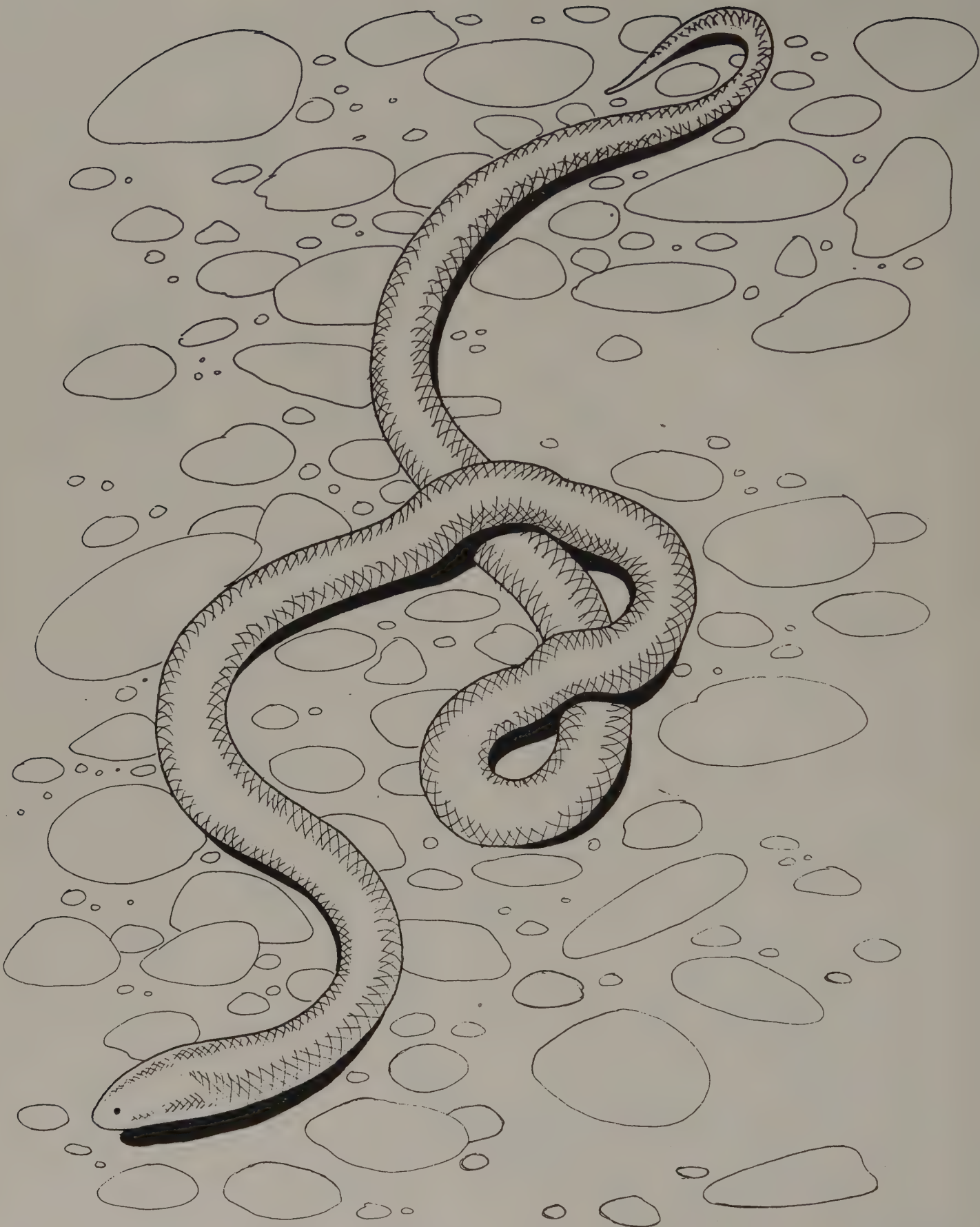
The MASSASAUGA (*Sistrurus catenatus*)—the name given it by the Chippewa Indians—is a small rattlesnake that ranges from southern Canada to northeastern Mexico. It

differs from its larger cousins by the presence of nine large scales on top of its head.



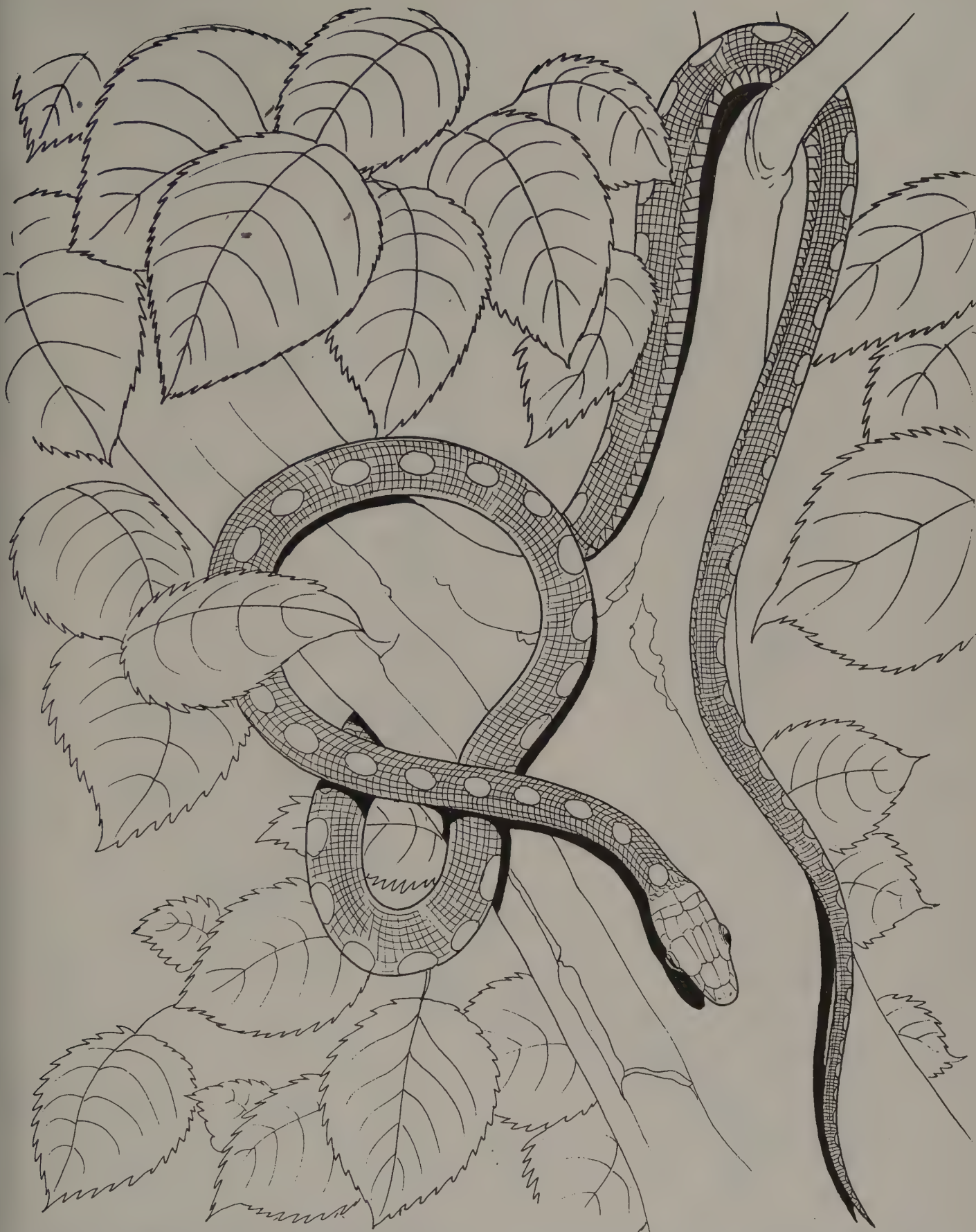
Florida's SCARLET SNAKE (*Cemophora coccinea*) prefers a specialized diet of reptile eggs. Nature assists by providing this secretive animal with specialized, large teeth in its

jaws, ready to slit the soft shells of eggs too big to swallow whole.



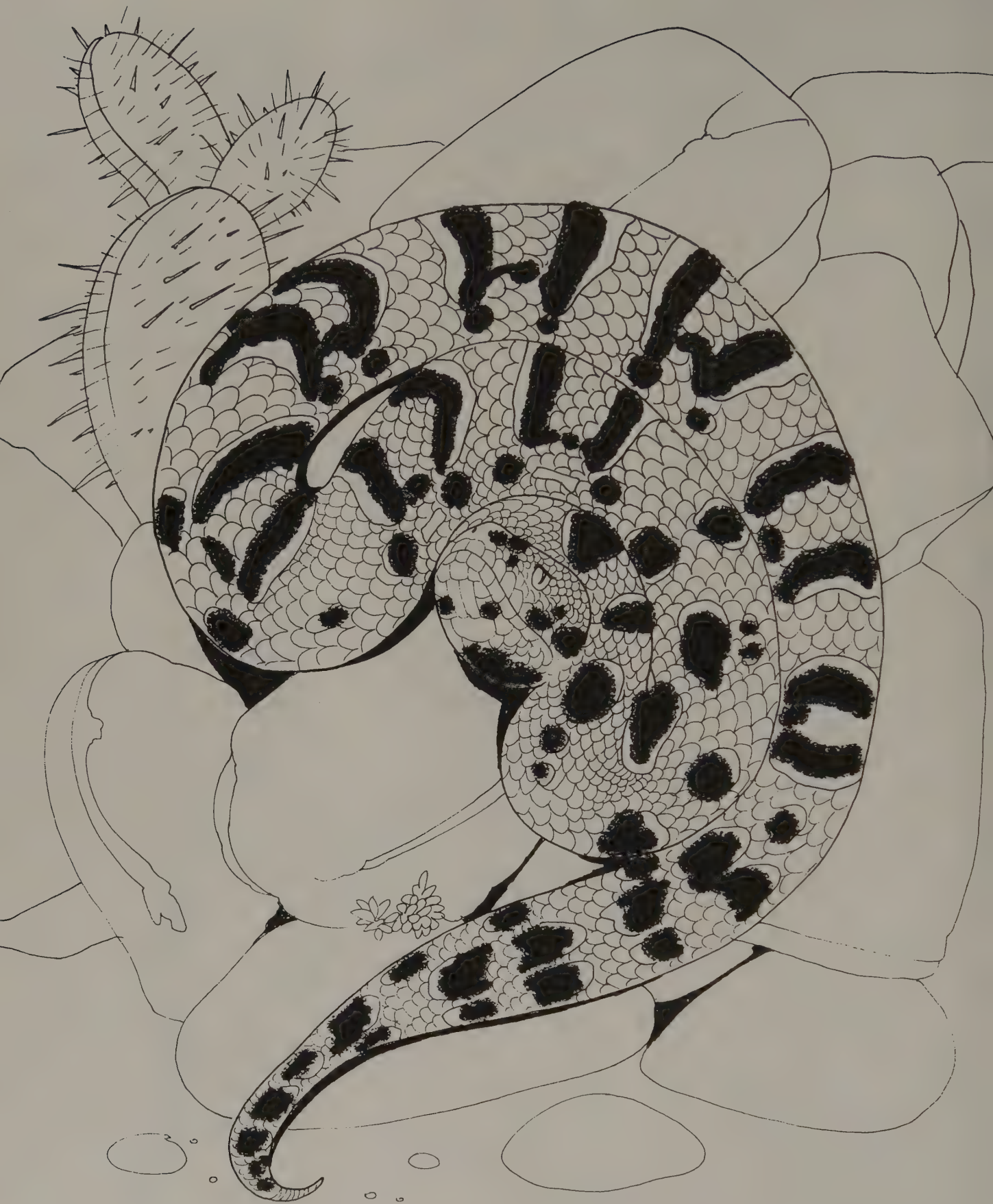
A throwback to prehistoric reptiles, the primitive BLIND SNAKE (*Typhlops sp.*) has adapted to a life underground: smooth, even scales, a blunt head, and eyes so reduced that

they are little more than points under the skin. Found worldwide, this snake is considered by some experts to be little more than a degenerate blind lizard.



Known as the "Flying Snake," the PARADISE TREE SNAKE (*Chrysolopea paradisi*) can in fact glide downward at an angle of fifty or so degrees for up to sixty-five feet. Although uncontrolled (and a one-way trip!), this adaptation

to life in Southeast Asia's forests links with the snake's unusual tree-climbing ability, made easy by bark-gripping ridged scales on its belly.



The FER-DE-LANCE (*Bothrops andrianus*) takes its French name from the “spearhead” shape of its sharply triangular head. Native to many areas south of Mexico, this vigorous

fighter possesses a virulent venom that can destroy tissue, blood cells and mucous membranes.



The fast-moving EASTERN BROWN SNAKE (*Pseudonaja textilis*), found in Australia and New Guinea, inhabits both

the wet forests and rocky hillsides of these regions. It uses its venom to feed on small mammals, lizards and frogs.



The FALSE CORAL SNAKE (*Anilius scytale*), a harmless and innocuous South American animal, shares both the environmental preference and defense mechanism of the venomous Eastern Coral Snake (see p. 3): it favors fallen logs

and humid days, and defends itself by presenting its blunt tail as a substitute for its head—the reason for its popular name of “Two-Headed” Snake.



To specialize it for life in water, nature provides the SPOT-
TED WATER SNAKE (*Enhydris punctata*) with upward-
directed eyes, nostrils on the upper surface of the head and
skin pads that completely shut the nostrils when the snake

is diving. This mildly venomous animal, a native of Australia, naturally preys on other water creatures such as fish and frogs.

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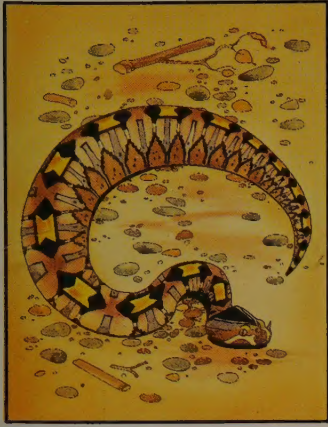
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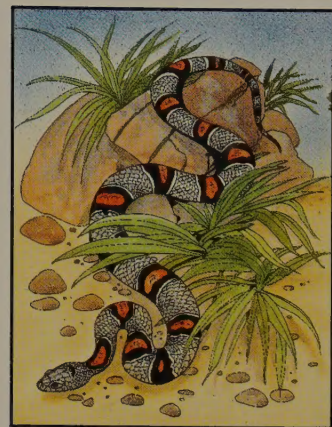
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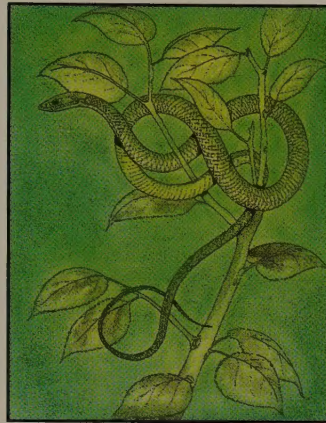
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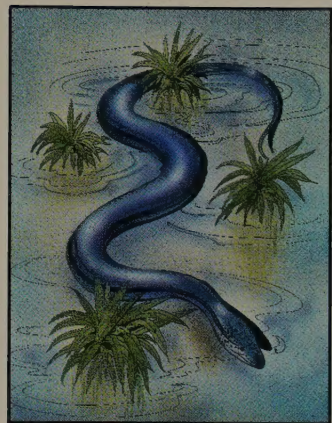
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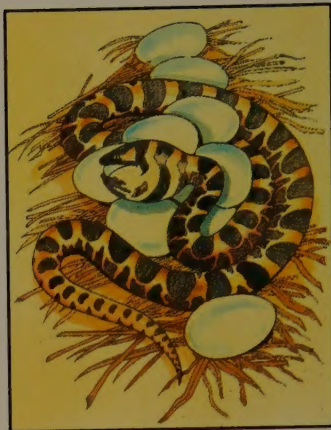
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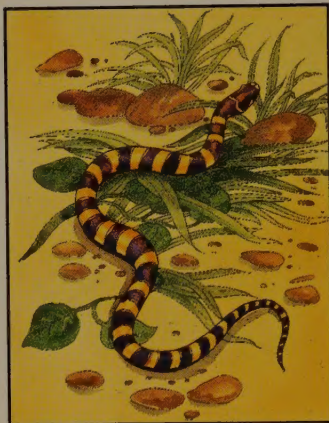
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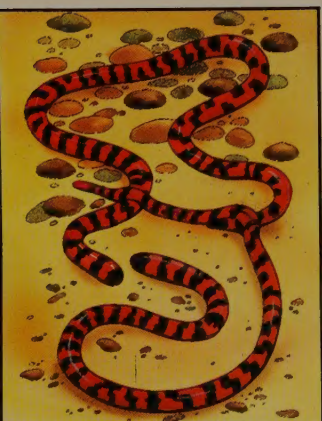
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